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ARAB TIMES

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NO. 7747 THURSDAY-FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21-22 1989/JAMADUL AWWAL 23-24, 1410 AH 22 PAGES 150 FILLS

Bush orders US forces to bring down Panama regime; 69 dead, hundreds wounded

'Get Noriega!' - But he gets away

Attack on Americans was being planned: Baker

PANAMA CITY, Dec 20, (Agencies): Thousands of US troops supported by helicopters and armoured vehicles attacked Panamanian military bases throughout the country today in a bid to apprehend Gen Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Noriega, the defence forces chief who has been indicted in the United States on drug charges, was in hiding. Machine-gun and cannon fire echoed across the capital through the



US soldiers supported by a tank take cover at their position in Panama City. (Reuters wirephoto)



Bush, in a speech, explains reason for launching the attack. (Reuters wirephoto)

night. Fighting waned after daylight, though sporadic shooting was reported in strongholds of paramilitary groups loyal to Noriega. US and Panamanian officials reported a total of 69 dead and hundreds wounded, while a doctor at a hospital said the toll was rising rapidly and medical supplies were short.

Opposition leader Guillermo Endara, the perceived winner of elections last May later nullified by the Noriega-controlled government, was sworn in as President and said US forces were in control of most Panamanian military bases. It was unclear if Endara had the support of any military units.

A man identified only as Maj Caballero said on national radio that Panamanian forces had detained 40 US citizens. There was no elaboration and no further details were available. He earlier said 41 US citizens were held.

Also, armed men who said they were Noriega loyalists seized three US citizens from a hotel in the capital. Two US television producers also were taken from the hotel by armed men.

In Washington, Secretary of State James Baker said today President George Bush decided last Sunday to intervene militarily in Panama and then sent in the troops after he got word that Noriega was considering an attack on Americans in Panama.

"The President made his decision last Sunday," Baker said at a news conference.

"... After the President had made his decision, we received an intelligence report that General Noriega was considering launching an urban commando attack on American citizens in a residential neighbourhood."

Baker commented hours after Bush himself had announced the overnight and early today airlift of US troops, some 9,500 in all as the lifts continued. Bush justified the action as a move to safeguard American lives in Panama, capture Noriega to face drug smuggling charges in the United States and safeguard the strategically vital Panama Canal.

Closed

Baker, acknowledging that some fighting apparently continued into the afternoon and there were reports that US hostages had been taken, added to the US justification with his report that Noriega may have been planning an anti-American attack of some sort.

A US Defence Department spokesman said officials were aware that an unknown number of US citizens were being held.

The Panama Canal was closed as a precautionary measure and was expected to reopen tomorrow, an official of the Panama Canal Commission said.

A security guard said oil pipelines through the canal zone were not operating because employees failed to arrive for work. US officials said they expected the pipelines to reopen tomorrow.

Bush said on national television he ordered the assault to protect the lives of more than 35,000 US citizens living in Panama.

"The operation is not over yet," Bush said. "General Noriega is in hiding."

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the US joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters that "organised resistance has ended, and what we're into now is mop-up."

He said nine US soldiers were killed, 39 wounded and one missing. Rodriguez told a news conference 60 Panamanians have died in the fighting and several hundred were wounded, the majority of them civilians.

Noriega's main bodyguard, Lt. Asuncion Gaitan, spoke on the national radio network after dawn today.

(Continued on Page 9)



Noriega, shown in a file picture.

Romanians continue uprising

Up to 4,000 die

Foreign hand-Ceausescu

EAST BERLIN, Dec 20, (Agencies): East Germany's official ADN news agency said today Romanian security forces killed 3,000 to 4,000 pro-democracy demonstrators in the town of Timisoara and many were buried in mass graves.

Quoting Romanians living in East Germany in telephone contact with friends and family back home, ADN said government forces had violently suppressed protest rallies in more than 10 cities in recent days.

Security forces, sometimes swooping down in helicopters, fired indiscriminately on demonstrators, including women — some pregnant — and children, ADN reported.

The death toll of between 3,000 and 4,000 cited by ADN doubled reported figures of the number of demonstrators killed in Timisoara.

The Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said earlier that up to 2,000 may have been killed.

ADN said there were so many bodies in the town that they had to be buried in mass graves on the outskirts or cremated.

The agency said hospitals were overflowing with wounded but did not give a figure.

ADN said demonstrations against the rule of President Nicolae Ceausescu had also taken place in Cluj, Oradea, Brasov, Buzau, Sibiu, Bistrita, Curtici, Constanza and other towns.

ADN quoted travellers from Romania as saying soldiers and police in Timisoara took arrested demonstrators to the main square and beat them brutally, sometimes jabbing them with bayonets.

The centre of Timisoara was reported devastated in the distur-

VIENNA, Dec 20, (Reuters): Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu said today that clashes in the town of Timisoara, reported to have killed hundreds, were instigated from abroad.

In a televised address to the nation after returning from a visit to Iran, the hardline communist leader said the events in the town were intended to "provoke disorder and destroy institutions."

Addressing the nation on his return from a visit to Iran, Ceausescu blamed what he called "anti-national and terrorist actions" on "imperialist, revanchist and irredentist" circles and foreign espionage services.

They were intended to "give a signal for such

actions in other centres," Ceausescu declared.

He said the army, which according to eye-witnesses used automatic weapons and tanks against a peaceful demonstration, had shown great patience and had "fully fulfilled their duty toward the homeland, the people and socialist achievements."

Hungarian Foreign Minister Gyula Horn earlier told Parliament in Budapest that Romania was claiming Hungary had instigated the demonstration and was organising an "armed provocation" against Romania.

Relations between the two countries have hit rock-bottom over their conflicting views on the need for reform and Romania's treatment of its 1.7 million-strong ethnic Hungarian minority.

bances. Foreign journalists who tried to reach the town were stopped 30 km (30 miles) away and sent back to Bucharest, ADN reported.

Tens of thousands of people marched in western Romania today as anti-government unrest spread across the last hardline nation in the East bloc, according to sources and media reports.

Sources reported heavy security patrols in the capital Bucharest and in at least four other major cities today.

The official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug, reporting from Bucharest, quoted unofficial sources as saying "a state of full alert has been introduced across Romania as protests and unrest continue in Timisoara and other towns."

President Nicolae Ceausescu returned today from a state visit to Iran said Tanjug. He has yet to comment publicly on the unrest.

Demonstrators in front of the Romanian embassy in Hungary said they had reliable informa-

tion that an armed struggle was underway in Timisoara, the western Romanian town where the unrest broke out on Friday.

In Yugoslavia, state-run Belgrade Radio quoted sources at the Yugoslav consulate in Timisoara as saying about 10,000 anti-Ceausescu demonstrators marched through the city centre today. Tanjug put the figure at 50,000. Romanian soldiers in army tanks, decorated with Romanian flags, watched without intervening, the radio reported.

A Syrian student arriving in Yugoslavia today from Timisoara told the Associated Press that all Timisoara's factories, stores and businesses had been closed for the past four days and that food was almost impossible to obtain.

A Yugoslav trucker who speaks Romanian also told the AP he saw graffiti daubed on walls while driving in a Timisoara suburb calling for "an uprising by Romanians against the Ceausescu regime on Dec 24."

The trucker, who asked not to be identified, said he heard sporadic gunfire and saw the sky being lit from the direction of the Timisoara centre while driving there early today.

An Austrian who had returned from Timisoara told Austrian Radio that the death toll in the weekend anti-government demonstrations was "more than 1,000." Late yesterday, Tanjug quoted unidentified eyewitnesses as saying that up to 2,000 people may have been killed when security forces shot into the crowd in the city.

Clashes

Unconfirmed report yesterday said clashes also occurred in Arad, Bucharest, Ploiesti, and Brasov, the country's second largest city where a huge anti-government demonstration was crushed in 1987. In the northeastern city of Iasi, demonstrators reportedly were burning Ceausescu's books, according to Soviet Moldavian opera singer and

(Continued on Page 12)

GCC redoubles Gulf peace

Oman to mediate

MUSCAT, Dec 20, (Agencies): Oman's information minister said today the focus of talks among six Gulf Arab leaders meeting here has shifted from foreign policy issues to economic relations in the bloc.

Minister Abdul Aziz Bin Mohammed Rowas said the leaders of the Gulf Co-operation Council, meeting in a four-day summit scheduled to end tomorrow, had discussed efforts to forge a peace treaty between Iran and Iraq. He said the Arab League peace plan for Lebanon and the Palestinian problem.

He said that the subject of Oman mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia was not a GCC priority.

"Oman does not need to mediate because we are all brothers and neighbours," he said at a press briefing.

On the future of strained ties between Riyadh and Tehran, he said: "Reality will rule. They are Muslims, they are neighbours, they are brothers."

Gulf Arab leaders have agreed to redouble efforts to persuade Iran and Iraq to reach a final settlement of the Gulf war, GCC officials said today.

Officials said the six rulers chose Oman to co-ordinate the peace diplomacy and contact Tehran and Baghdad.

The rulers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman told their foreign ministers yesterday to draw up new policies to help the peace process, the officials said. They gave no details.

Sultan Qaboos of Oman has long experience as a peace broker in the region and recently co-ordinated indirect contacts, and at least one secret direct meeting at a senior level, between Iran and Saudi Arabia, Iranian political sources say.

Western diplomatic sources in Muscat note that Oman has kept cordial relations with both countries, but its mediation efforts had probably not been requested.

"The Saudis are not prepared to let Oman broker their relations with Iran. They have their own agenda," said one Western diplomat.

On Oman's own relations with Iran, Rowas said they had not changed since President Hasbemi Rafsanjani was elected in July. He said Oman's relations with its neighbours do not depend on who is ruling, but are strategic.

He said Oman would continue stationing forces at a base in Saudi Arabia for the Peninsula Shield, a joint force developed by the GCC states out of concern that the 8-year Iran-Iraq war would reach their shores.

Rowas said moves towards unification were not on the agenda at all.

In oil matters, he said the GCC states would stick to their previous position that oil prices must be fair for both producers and consumers.

Rowas would not discuss what economic items are on the agenda, but they are expected to be a unified tariff barrier and co-ordinating massive development projects.

(Continued on Page 9)

Weather

FAIR weather with light to moderate north-westerly wind.

State of sea: Slight to moderate

High water: 5.14 am, 6.37 pm

Low water: 11.54 am

Sunrise: 6.38 am

Sunset: 4.54 pm

Maximum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 19°C 66°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Minimum temperatures recorded:

Kuwait: 8°C 46°F

Ahmad: 11°C 52°F

Falaka: 11°C 52°F

Maximum temperatures expected:

Kuwait: 20°C 68°F

Ahmad: 19°C 66°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 93 per cent

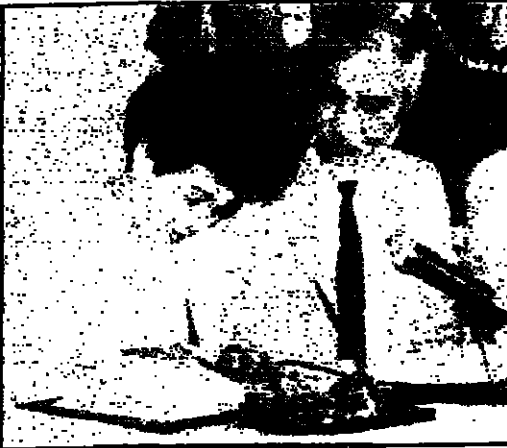
Ahmad: 80 per cent

Falaka: 83 per cent



Shouting match

20-year-old student Anna Reeves from New Zealand concentrates on a shriek at a year-end yelling contest in which nearly 50 male and female participants competed the loudness of their screaming.



Powerful Cory

Philippine President Aquino signs into law the bill granting her emergency rule powers at Malacanang Palace as house Speaker Romon Mitra looks on. (Reuters wirephoto)

See story on Page 8.

UFO leads police merry chase: An identified flying object which witnesses said was chased by police for two hours before it flew off was the talk of this southern Gulf emirate on Wednesday.

Police headquarters in the port city of Dubai was flooded with telephone calls from people claiming they had sighted the UFO around midnight on Tuesday.

Police refused to confirm or deny the reported sightings. But officers said they had contacted Dubai airport to check the times of all landings and take-offs during the period of the reported sightings. They declined further comment.

Several people, who declined to be identified, told reporters the object was round and about 2.5 metres (about 8 feet) in diameter with strong lights around it

No compromise: President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, outlining the policies of India's new government, said on Wednesday there would be no compromises in tackling secessionist rebellions by Sikh and Muslim militants.



Probe into power abuse

Margot Honecker, wife of Erich Honecker appears before a hearing in East Berlin for investigations into abuse of official power and other acts that may have contravened the E. German law. (Reuters wirephoto)

In a speech prepared by Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government, Venkataraman told a joint session of Parliament that fresh efforts must be made to halt religious strife and corruption.

The president, also said India would retain friendly ties with both the Soviet Union and the United States, seek to solve a border dispute with China and strengthen economic ties with Japan. (AP) (See Page 2)

Nationality rules: Pakistan government has changed its rules on nationality to enable Pakistani women to marry foreigners and obtain Pakistani nationality for their husbands. Interior Minister Aitezz Ahsan said in Islamabad on Wednesday.

Prior to this only Pakistani men who married foreign women were allowed to get Pakistani nationality for their wives, he said in an interview with official news agency APP.

That rule, according to Aitezz, discriminated against women and thus violated the constitution. Article 25, he pointed out, treated men and women equally.

Any rule that denied women the rights permitted to men without any reasonable basis could not be followed and should be discarded. Such a provision was unfortunately included in Pakistan citizenship rules of 1951, the Interior Minister said. (Kuna)

INTERNATIONAL

Tamil Tigers launch political party

COLOMBO, Dec 20, (Kuna): The powerful Tamil Tiger rebels today launched their political party but said the military wing will exist until a "permanent solution" is found to the Tamil ethnic crisis.

Anton S. Balasingham, the political ideologist of the Tamil Tigers, told a press conference in Colombo the party, "The People's Front of Liberation Tigers" (PFLT), will embrace democratic

socialism as its political and theoretical ideology and will be headed by Mahendraraja alias Mahathaya, the deputy leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The flag of the party will be a red flag with the Tiger emblem in the middle, he said.

The party will fight for the right of self determination of the Tamils and Muslims and strive for the

social, political and economic emancipation of them, Balasingham, flanked by Yogarathnam Yogi, general secretary of the party, said.

Protecting and preserving the geographical identity and integrity of the "traditional homelands of the Tamils and Muslims" and working towards establishing an equalitarian social formation will be among the party's objectives, Dr Balasingham, a

Lankan born British national said. He said the PFLT will also support the world national liberation struggles against imperialism.

However, he said, the military wing of the LTTE will continue to function "until a permanent solution with a security arrangement guaranteeing the safety and security of Tamils and Muslims is found."

No compromise with separatism: Venkataraman

India to improve ties

NEW DELHI, Dec 20, (Agencies): President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, outlining the policies of India's new government, said today there would be no compromise in tackling secessionist rebellions by Sikh and Muslim militants.

In a speech prepared by Prime Minister V.P. Singh's government, Venkataraman told a joint session of Parliament that fresh efforts must be made to halt religious strife and corruption.

The President, also said India would retain friendly ties with both the Soviet Union and United States, seek to solve a border dispute with China and strengthen economic ties with Japan.

He also said Singh's government will be more accountable than was Rajiv Gandhi's administration.

A vote of confidence is to be held tomorrow for Singh to prove the strength of his minority government on the floor of the 523-member lower house.

"The government proposes to adopt an alternative model of government and development based on socialist ideals of economic equality and social justice, federalism and decentralisation, institutional accountability and human rights," he said.

Singh, whose centrist National Front alliance took office after forging a coalition with Hindu right-wingers and secular communists, listened attentively in the front row of the Central Hall of Parliament.

Rajiv, whose five-year tenure as prime minister ended in the November election debacle for his Congress Party, took notes.



Venkataraman

Venkataraman, noting that voters had given a "clear verdict in favour of change," said the new government would strive to meet the challenges ahead.

"The Punjab problem has defied solutions so far," he said, referring to the Sikh separatist movement that has claimed more than 7,000 lives in the past six years and triggered the 1984 assassination of Rajiv's mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

"There will be no compromise with separatism and no yielding to extremists, but there is admittedly a compelling need for a national endeavour to resolve the problem," the white-haired President said.

He said Singh's government would broaden the discussions it already

has initiated on finding a political solution for Punjab, India's most prosperous farming state.

The nationally televised, 15-minute speech set out a course of action for government, but gave few specifics. It was delivered in the same Parliament hall where India's independence was proclaimed at midnight on Aug 14, 1947.

Turning to Kashmir, where pro-Pakistan Muslims want to secede from India, Venkataraman vowed: "There will be no compromise on the country's unity, sovereignty and integrity."

The two-week-old government of Singh, a Hindu, already has had its first serious challenge from Kashmiri militants. On Dec 8, militants abducted the daughter of Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a Muslim from Kashmir.

The young woman, a hospital intern, was released unharmed after six days when the government freed five Muslim extremists.

In a reference to Hindu-Muslim riot that claimed more than 300 lives this fall in other states, the President said: "Violence has no place in the land of Mahatma Gandhi, the apostle of nonviolence."

He was referring to Indian independence leader Mohandas K. Gandhi.

Venkataraman said that under Singh, whose chief campaign pledge was to eradicate government corruption, legislation would be introduced to appoint an ombudsman, or watchdog, whose jurisdiction would include the prime minister.

In keeping with Singh's pledge to have an open government, the

powers of the sweeping Official Secrets Act would be trimmed and state-run television and radio would be made autonomous.

Venkataraman also said "the law will take its own course in matters of corruption in high places" and that even the prime minister would not be above investigation.

The statement was in reference to Singh's pledge that he would fully investigate the payment of kickbacks to unidentified middlemen in the scandal-shrouded 1986 purchase of a \$1.3 billion artillery system from Sweden's A.B. Bofors.

Rajiv's government was hounded by accusations of corruption, epitomised by allegations that the Swedish arms manufacturer AB Bofors paid up to \$50 million in kickbacks to clinch a \$1.4-billion contract with India.

"Over the past few years, there has been a growing erosion of norms and values in public life," Venkataraman said. "The law will take its own course in respect of matters of corruption in high places."

He also said autonomy would be granted to state-run television and radio, which under Rajiv Gandhi devoted wide coverage to the governing Congress Party and little time to the opposition.

India will continue its policy of non-alignment while remaining friendly with both East and West, and work on "strengthening ties with our neighbours in South Asia," Venkataraman said.

He noted that talks already had started with Sri Lanka, where Indian troops are ending a 2-1/2-year peacekeeping operation.

Singh firmly in the saddle

Confidence a technicality

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, Dec 20: When Prime Minister V.P. Singh moves a motion seeking a vote of confidence in the Lok Sabha tomorrow, he will be more than anything else complying with a technical requirement.

While inviting him to form the government on Dec 1, President Venkataraman had directed Singh to prove his majority in the House within 30 days. Enjoying, as he does, the support of nearly 300 members in the 522-member House, including 144 of the ruling National Front, it is certain that the government will survive. It is, in fact, a measure of Singh's confidence that he decided to seek the vote of trust at the first opportunity instead of waiting for the full month available to him.

Though the confidence vote will establish the parliamentary legitimacy of the new government, Singh seems to have already established his credentials as far as most people are concerned. Almost everyone who meets these days speaks of the marked change in style and substance of the new government as compared to the one headed till recently by Rajiv Gandhi.

During the two years that he spent in the opposition, after being ousted from Rajiv's cabinet, Singh had acquired a wimpish image and been accused of indecisiveness. All that now seems to be a thing of the past as Singh slipped slowly into gear and took firm command of the world's most populous democracy.

NEWS ANALYSIS

The new prime minister's first test was the putting together of his cabinet. The strategy seems to have been to start off with a small team and expand it later after the vote of confidence is secured in the Lok Sabha. It could not have been an easy task, given the ambitions of some of his colleagues. But the final dispensation was something that even his critics could not fault.

The appointment of Mufti Mohammad Sayeed as the country's first Muslim home minister was, perhaps, the most dramatic move made by Singh in the formation of his ministry. It was meant to reassure India's minorities that their interests were safe in the new government's hands, notwithstanding the understanding it had reached with the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party. Moreover, the Mufti's experience of Jammu and Kashmir politics was expected to come in handy in dealing with the problems posed by militants in the sensitive state.

Similarly, there has been wide acclaim for the choice of former ambassador Inder Kumar Gujral as external affairs minister, American-born engineer Aji Singh as industry minister and former corporate executive Arun Nehru as commerce minister.

As a trade unionist, George Fernandes had led the famous railway strike of 1974. Now, he finds himself in charge of one of the world's largest railway systems. The corporate world has reacted favourably to the mild-mannered Madhu Dandavate's induction as finance minister.

In the three weeks that have followed, the new government has been making efforts to tackle some basic problems. There is a lot of talk about restoring the dignity of institutions, implying that they suffered under the previous regime. For instance, the new deputy chairman of the planning commission Ram Krishna Hegde has not only talked about restoring its prestige but also making it more broad-based. For the first time, three chief ministers will be inducted as ex-officio members of the commission, and all three will be from states where the National Front is not in power.

The new government has already initiated steps to deliver on some of its election promises — autonomy to the electronic media, for instance. A bill is being introduced in this regard during the current session of parliament and will, in all probability, be passed. Corruption in high places will be tackled through the bill seeking to appoint a Lok Pal (ombudsman).

Singh has promised genuine decentralisation of powers and electoral reforms to curb the role of big money in India's elections. Punjab was at the top of Singh's agenda, and soon after taking over, he flew to Amritsar and offered prayers at the Golden Temple, accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, the Mufti and Gujral. In the holy city, Singh discarded the tight security ordered for him and drove in an open jeep and into the hearts of thousands of Sikhs who gave him a euphoric welcome.

Punjab Governor S.S. Ray was later replaced and senior civil servant Nirmal Mukharjee appointed in his place. The Mufti was asked to head a five-member cabinet sub-committee to study the problems of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. This week, Singh followed all this up with an all-party meeting to evolve a consensus on Punjab. Consensus has, in fact, become the new catchword.

In keeping with his priorities, Singh appointed other cabinet sub-committees to study Panchayati Raj, autonomy to the state-owned radio and television, rising prices, the right to information and the right to work.

On the external affairs front, the first delegation to visit the country after Singh took over was from Sri Lanka. A team headed by Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne held talks in Delhi and Madras in a bid to bring the two countries closer together and ensure that India kept its promise of withdrawing troops from the island before the Dec 31 deadline.

A delegation from Nepal, headed by the foreign minister, has also been invited for talks to normalise relations. The Front's election manifesto had emphasised improved relations with India's neighbours, especially Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Singh's first press conference seems to have gone down well with the media.

SAARC

Colombo to host summit

COLOMBO, Dec 20, (Kuna): The fifth SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation) Summit will be held in Sri Lanka from April 15th to 24th, next year.

This has been conveyed to the SAARC countries by the Sri Lankan government, Sri Lankan diplomatic sources said today.

There are strong possibilities of two summits being held next year and discussions are now being held among member countries in this connection. Sri Lankan diplomatic sources said.

According to these sources, Sri Lanka has agreed to hold next year's SAARC summit provided the Indian Peace-Keeping Forces (IPKF) leave the island's soil before the scheduled date for the commencement of the summit.

Already Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry officials have commenced holding meetings among key officials planning for the summit in early 1990, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Toll rises to 8 in Kashmir

Violator shot dead

SRINAGAR, Dec 20, (AP): Police shot and killed a man yesterday when he failed to stop his motorcycle at a security checkpoint, authorities said.

The killing occurred during an eight-hour relaxation of the curfew imposed on Friday in Srinagar, the summer capital of northern Jammu-Kashmir state.

The curfew also was imposed on the state's four other towns after Muslim separatists, celebrating the freedom of five of their jailed colleagues in a ransom deal, turned violent.

Security forces were ordered to shoot curfew violators.

The victim, identified as Ghulam Hassan Raja, was shot near a downtown Srinagar checkpoint, according to a police officer who declined to be identified.

The death brought to at least eight the number of people who have been killed in violence since the Dec 13 release of five jailed

militants of the Kashmir Liberation Front.

The front members were released in Srinagar in exchange for the life of 22-year-old Rubia Sayeed, who was kidnapped and held hostage by the separatist group on Dec 8.

Rubia, a medical intern at a Srinagar hospital, is the youngest daughter of Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed, a Kashmiri and the first Muslim to be named to the sensitive post that oversees police and internal security.

The front, formed in 1965, wants Jammu-Kashmir to secede from India and become either independent or merge with Islamic Pakistan.

Muslims make up 64 per cent of Jammu-Kashmir's five million people but only about 12 per cent of India's 880 million people. Hindus account for about 80 per cent of the population.

Solarz wants to mediate

KATHMANDU, Dec 20, (UPI): Stephen Solarz, chairman of the US House of Representatives Asia-Pacific sub-committee, said that he came to Nepal to find if there was any role for his country to play in resolving the nine-month dispute between India and Nepal on trade and transit issues.

"I have come to find if there is any role for the United States in resolving the dispute. But it is, of course, for India and Nepal to solve the problems," he told a press conference shortly after arrival from Pakistan.

He described his mission to Nepal as "a fact-finding trip"

and avoided taking any sides on the dispute between the two South Asian neighbours when asked to give his comments on the impasse in bilateral Indo-Nepal relations.

India was irked at Nepal for buying Chinese anti-aircraft weapons and it refused to renew trade and transit treaties in April. At that time India cut off most imports to Nepal which has as a result suffered sharp declines in development and industrial production as well as shortages of cooking and transportation fuel that have crippled its already impoverished economy.

WELCOME 1990

25 Dec *Sun* invites you to special Christmas lunch & dinner. Shake hands with Santa Claus and get your Christmas shopping done.

* Buffet lunch \$10.00 (Christmas log) available for \$12.00

* Dec 26 *Mon* for a special dinner

* Buffet lunch \$10.00 (Christmas log) available for \$12.00

* Dec 27 *Tue* for a special dinner

* Buffet lunch \$10.00 (Christmas log) available for \$12.00

* Dec 28 *Wed* for a special dinner

* Buffet lunch \$10.00 (Christmas log) available for \$12.00

* Dec 29 *Thu* for a special dinner

* Buffet lunch \$10.00 (Christmas log) available for \$12.00

* Dec 30 *Fri* for a special dinner

* Buffet lunch \$10.00 (Christmas log) available for \$12.00

* Dec 31 *Sat* for a special dinner

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* Dec 31 *Sat* for a special dinner

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SAARC

Colombo to host summit

COLOMBO, Dec 20, (Kuna): The fifth SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation) Summit will be held in Sri Lanka from April 15th to 24th, next year.

This has been conveyed to the SAARC countries by the Sri Lankan government, Sri Lankan diplomatic sources said today.

There are strong possibilities of two summits being held next year and discussions are now being held among member countries in this connection. Sri Lankan diplomatic sources said.

According to these sources, Sri Lanka has agreed to hold next year's SAARC summit provided the Indian Peace-Keeping Forces (IPKF) leave the island's soil before the scheduled date for the commencement of the summit.

Already Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry officials have commenced holding meetings among key officials planning for the summit in early 1990, Foreign Ministry officials said.

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Charles deplores English usage

LONDON, Dec 20. (AP) Prince Charles lamented yesterday the "calamitous decline" in literacy in Britain, and said use of the English language is degenerating into a "dismal wasteland of banality, cliché and casual obscenity."

In June, the heir to the British throne complained English was taught "so bloody badly" that he had to correct all letters written by his staff.

Yesterday's criticism was couched more elegantly but was equally biting in singling out the teaching profession for discarding the idea that English is a precious legacy to be nurtured with care.

"We have seen the abandonment of learning the rules of grammar and the parts of speech as boring and irrelevant," he said.

The prince said it was deplorable that schools have stopped insisting students learn poetry by heart.

He also denounced what he called "banal" modern versions of Cranmer's prayer book and the 17th century King James Bible. The originals were commanding and poetic, he said.

"Poetry was for everybody. But banality is for nobody. It might be accessible for all but so is a desert," he said.

Britain had produced the world's most successful language, he said, which had been the medium for some of the greatest literature.

"Yet a great many people today look in dismay at what is happening to that language in the very place where it evolved."

The Rt. Rev. John Tylor, Church of England Bishop of St Albans, said Cranmer's language was magnificent and beautiful, but the church's new liturgy enabled congregations to use a language reflecting their hopes and prayers.

A government-appointed committee reported last year that although English is the first language of 90 million people around the world, it is spoken by a billion people, the teaching of English has been neglected in the country of its conception.

Prince Charles will visit the United States for a week in February, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

His first stop will be Washington on Feb 16 where he will attend the American Institute of Architects "accout on architecture" celebration and the opening of the American architectural foundation's "Sir Christopher Wren and the Legacy of St Paul's Cathedral" exhibition at the Octagon.

LONDON: Nicotine, the drug inhaled by cigarette smokers, can help sufferers of Alzheimer's disease, psychologists reported Tuesday.

Giving nicotine resulted in the patients becoming more alert, responding more vigorously and doing better on a variety of mental tests.

Reading University psychology professor David Warburton told a conference of the British psychological society.

Other papers presented during the two-day conference at London University's Institute of Education covered topics ranging from dieting to Jewish humour.

In the Alzheimer's study, Warburton and his colleagues, Dr Barbara Sahakian and Emma Jones, matched 39 Alzheimer's patients with a group of elderly people of the same age and intellectual ability at London University's Institute of Psychiatry.

Compared to a placebo, nicotine increased the alertness of patients who suffer from premature senile dementia symptoms associated with Alzheimer's, although it did not improve their memories, the psychologists said. (AP)



Biting a guitar?
Rock superstar Paul McCartney bites into a guitar-shaped cake at a lunch at Claridge's London, Dec 19 when he received a Performing Right Society award, in recognition of his unique contribution to British music. Standing next to McCartney is wife Linda McCartney. (Reuter wirephoto)

BOSTON: An experimental AIDS treatment that combines a bone marrow transplant with the drug AZT appears promising but requires much more study, experts said Tuesday.

"It's an exciting marriage of two disparate treatment modalities," said Dr William Haseltine of Harvard Medical School. "It's an important early finding which may have long-term clinical use but needs further study."

Researchers at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore used the technique for the first time on a 41-year-old man who was infected with the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome virus and had non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

The patient died 46 days after undergoing the procedure, but he died from a relapse of his cancer and not the transplant, the researchers said. (UPI)

PARIS: Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre Company can hardly be confused with a Russian restaurant in Bordeaux, France, yet the famed Soviet institution is taking court action to make the Le Bolshoi restaurant give up its name.

The legal action has restaurant owners Kintet and Michel Gauthier doing pirouettes.

"It's not as if we're a theatre," Mrs Gauthier told the Associated Press in a telephone interview. "We're absolutely in shock, and my head is spinning. We never dreamed we would be accused of detracting from the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow." (AP)

MBABANE: A distraught Swazi motorist who thought he had killed a motorcyclist in a crash ran into the bush and hanged himself.

Swazi police said on Wednesday 39-year-old Zibusiso Masoko was found hanging from a tree near the accident site at Pigg's Peak in the north of the country.

The motorcyclist survived and is recovering in hospital. (Reuter)

NEW YORK: The lawyer for a teen critically wounded by subway gunman Bernhard Goetz Tuesday belittled as a transparent ploy Goetz's claim that he is too ill with cancer to give sworn testimony.

"Goetz has done everything, legal and illegal, to avoid coming to court and testifying," said Ronald Kuby, who represents Darrell Cabey in a \$50 million civil lawsuit against Goetz.

"There are many people who have illnesses, and many people, tragically, who have cancer. But having cancer does not give you a

license to shoot black people in the back."

Barry Slotnick, Goetz's lawyer, confirmed that his client was undergoing radiation treatment, and called Kuby's comments indecent. (UPI)

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Buchwald claims damages 'My idea was raped'

LOS ANGELES, Dec 20. (Reuter) - The morose Art Buchwald, who claims Paramount Studios used his idea for the Eddie Murphy hit film "Coming to America," told a court on Monday his property was stolen and "raped".

He said at first he didn't know what to do about it because, "it is very hard for a so-called humorist to be taken seriously."

"I was hoping we had a hit, a big one - like an oil well," he said in reply to questions from his lawyer.

Buchwald, a Washington columnist, has sued Paramount Pictures Corporation for \$5 million, claiming the film, in which Murphy played an African prince who went to the United States and found a wife, was based on a story he wrote.

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Mail bomb trail

From Georgia with hate

ATLANTA, Dec. 20, (UPI): Bombs that killed a federal judge and a city councilman were nearly identical to two found in an Atlanta courthouse and a Florida Neapco office, and all four devices were mailed from Georgia, investigators said today.

Police searched for a possible racial motivation behind the bombings, and civil rights leaders joined federal court officials in screening their mail for more possible explosives, particularly in Georgia, Florida and Alabama, which comprise the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals and where four bombs have been found since Saturday.

The warning came amid growing government suspicion that the deaths of appeals court judge Robert Vance and Savannah, Georgia, city councilman Robert Robinson and two bombs mailed to a federal court in Atlanta and the Neapco office in Jacksonville, Florida, were racially motivated.

FBI Atlanta chief William Hinshaw said the bombs are similar and "extremely well-crafted" and at least two of the devices were rigged with "fusing mechanisms" set to go off when the packages were opened.

Hinshaw said each bomb appeared to come in a package measuring 12 by 9 by 4 1/2 inches (30 x 23 x 11 cm). Lance Hearn of the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms said the bombs in Georgia and Alabama were packed in nails.

All the shoe-box-size packaged bombs were wrapped in brown paper, tied with a string and contained a return address typed on a red-and-white label in the upper left corner.

The FBI said all four bombs appear to have been mailed from towns in Georgia. The bomb that killed Vance apparently was mailed Thursday from Newnan, Georgia. The Savannah device appears to have been sent from Warner Robins, Georgia, and the Jacksonville package was mailed from either Warner Robins or Tacon, Georgia. The Atlanta package bore an Atlanta postmark.

Macon, Newnan Warner Robins are in central Georgia, south of Atlanta.

"All the packages had different return names, and we have interviewed all the people," Hinshaw said. "They are not considered suspects."

Attorney general Richard Thornburgh said the four bombs "represent not only a vicious assault on innocent life, but constitute an attack on institutions which protect our basic freedoms."

"Federal investigators are currently concentrating on a possible racial motivation to the incidents which have occurred in the past four days," Thornburgh said. "We are exploring the possible relationship, if any, among these incidents."

In Florida, where the fourth bomb was found and disarmed Tuesday, authorities said a rushed schedule and a faulty car probably kept Willie Dennis, the president of the Neapco chapter in Jacksonville from setting off the explosive device mailed there.

The package arrived at noon Monday, but Dennis told authorities she did not have time to open it.

"That may have saved her life," said Mary Anne Christensen, press aide to Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Hazouri. "She had to rush out the door to get to a press conference, and her car



A policeman watches as the bomb is lowered into a container in front of the Jacksonville NAACP office. The bomb can be seen just above the drum. (Reuter wirephoto)

US racist groups More violent

ATLANTA, Dec. 20, (Reuter): White racist groups, under scrutiny after a string of mail bomb attacks in southern states, have made up in fanaticism and violence what they have lost in numbers in recent years, organizations which monitor these groups said yesterday.

They said that while groups such as the Ku Klux Klan have lost members, those who remain tend to be more violent and may be carrying out a new campaign to terrorize opponents to their cause.

"The Klan may be a shadow of its former self as many members dropped out when they say it had no impact on bringing about the policies they wanted," said Charles Wittenstein, regional counsel for the anti-defamation league of B'nai B'rith.

"But in these groups there's a hard core which, being frustrated, may feel their only resort is violence. The combination of bigotry and weapons can be extremely dangerous. I suspect what we have here is a fairly small group, but it doesn't take a large number to create terrorist havoc."

White supremacist groups are the focus of suspicion after four mail bomb incidents since Saturday. One blast killed a black lawyer and another killed a white judge who advocated racial moderation.

"Federal investigators are currently concentrating on a possible racial motivation to the incidents," said Attorney General Dick Thornburgh.

In the latest incident, a package bomb was disarmed yesterday at the offices of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) in Jacksonville, Florida.

Judge Robert Vance was killed on Saturday at his home in Birmingham, Alabama, suburb. Lawyer and community activist Robert Robinson died on Monday in Savannah, Georgia, of injuries sustained in a mail-bomb blast.

A third bomb was found on Monday in the building that housed the court on which Vance sat.

Wittenstein said federal courts in the south could be tempting targets for right-wing extremists because they have been "channels through which people, particularly minorities, could vindicate their civil liberties and rights."

Violent neo-fascist groups which rail against blacks, Jews, homosexuals and "non-Aryan" immigrants generated much attention in the Pacific northwest in the past few years and expanded to other regions, including the south.

Among their allies are neo-Nazi "Skinheads" who use gang violence against their enemies and "Christian identity survivalists" who preach that white Anglo-Saxons rather than modern-day Jews are the racial heirs of the biblical nation of Israel and will survive a coming race war.

In decline but still active are various factions of the Klan, the cross-burning white-robed secret order formed in the south after the Confederate defeat in the civil war.

"The Klan still exists but doesn't have the strength of even five years ago," said Pat Clark, who directs the Klanwatch project of the Southern Poverty Law Centre in Montgomery, Alabama.

One factor in the decline is that vigorous legal actions against Klansmen accused of crimes against blacks have brought numerous convictions.

broke down on the way back, so she never made it back to the office on Monday."

When Dennis learned Tuesday morning about the death of Robinson, a civil rights attorney and Neapco leader, she remembered the package sitting on her desk and called police. Christensen said.

Also Tuesday, false bomb threats forced authorities to close federal courthouses in Miami and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, a federal magistrate in Alabama received a telephone death threat, and US marshals tightened security for federal judges across the nation, particularly in the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals, to which Vance belonged.



Train-truck collision kills 3

A fast-moving, six-car Amtrak passenger train carrying upwards of 150 holiday travellers slammed into a garbage truck in heavy fog Tuesday, crashing and bursting into flames. Authorities said at least three people were killed.

The San Joaquin county coroner's office said the truck driver was killed. Amtrak said two train crew members also died in the wreck.

"There are about 50 walking wounded, including 25 in fairly serious condition, and there are multiple fatalities," said Meagan Todd of the office of emergency services in San Joaquin county.

The train was carrying from 150 to 200 people, including 60 passengers who had just been picked up in Stockton, a California Highway Patrol spokeswoman said.

Another CHP dispatcher said the tractor-trailer truck failed to stop at the Santa Fe railway crossing 7 miles (11 km) outside Stockton and was apparently hit broadside. (Reuter wirephoto)

El Salvador rebels' commander No. 2 among 401 guerrillas killed in offensive

SAN SALVADOR, Dec. 20, (UPI): FMLN rebels reported that 401 guerrillas, including 10 commanders, were killed in their fierce offensive that began Nov. 11.

"To date, 401 of the bravest and most self-sacrificing sons of the fatherland have fallen in battle," the clandestine rebel-run radio Venceremos reported.

The rebel broadcast said "Dimas Rodriguez," the No. 2 commander of the Popular Liberation Forces, one of the five FMLN groups, died in the offensive, but did not provide the exact date.

El Salvador, the size of Massachusetts, has been ravaged by 10 years of civil war, which has cost the lives of more than 72,000 people, mostly civilians.

The US official in Washington said the current phase could continue for a long time, but the possibility of a military and political triumph has disappeared and the FMLN is aware of it, and is also aware of its loss of outside support for its militant tactics, including support from Moscow.

"Peace is nearer than when the thing (the FMLN offensive) broke out," the official said. "The FMLN has a more realistic appraisal of its own lack of support. There is a certain disillusionment setting in. They know that radio Venceremos (the clandestine rebel radio station) hasn't been telling the truth."

Senator Edward Kennedy, Democrat of Massa-

chusetts, said US military aid to El Salvador will undergo "urgent review" when Congress returns next year and asked for an immediate evaluation of the assistance programme.

Kennedy asked the General Accounting Office for an assessment of the \$85 million in military aid provided this year, of the policy on US military advisers and of the effectiveness of the assistance programme.

In a letter to Comptroller-General Charles Bowsher, Kennedy said, "when Congress returns in January 1990, one of its top priorities will be an urgent review of US policy towards El Salvador."

"The recent FMLN offensive, the heightened civil war

New evidence in Pan Am crash found

Talb involvement getting clearer

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 20, (Reuter): Security was tightened today at Swedish airports ahead of the first anniversary of the Dec. 21 Lockerbie disaster and new evidence linking a Palestinian man to the explosion was reported.

The measures followed warnings in Europe and North America of possible terrorist attacks over the Christmas period, though Swedish authorities had received no direct threat, police sources said.

A Swedish court was to deliver judgement tomorrow on Mohamed Abu Talb, who is being questioned about Lockerbie, and three other Palestinians, all accused of earlier bomb attacks in Europe.

The Malmo afternoon newspaper Kvalleposten reported that Swedish investigators had uncovered three new elements linking Abu Talb

with the Lockerbie attack.

It said that in a diary seized by investigators Abu Talb had drawn a circle round Dec. 21, 1988 — the day a Pan Am jet airliner blew up above the Scottish town of Lockerbie, killing 270 people.

According to the newspaper report, after a police raid on Abu Talb's apartment, his wife Jamila Mougrabi made a telephone call — tapped by police — to Palestinian friends and said in Arabic: "Get rid of the clothes."

Senior security police officers were not immediately available for comment on the newspaper report.

Sven-Erik Sjogren, Abu Talb's lawyer, told reporters that Swedish police flanked by Scottish police began questioning his client yesterday

but the session was broken off.

"We could not agree on the composition of the people at the interrogation," Sjogren said. Talb had objected to the presence of Scottish police in the room.

Scottish police cannot interrogate the suspect directly but may suggest questions to Swedish colleagues.

Scottish authorities said in Edinburgh last week no prosecution over the Lockerbie bombing was yet in sight, and they were not at present seeking the extradition of any Palestinian held in Sweden.

Sweden has given permission for 16 bags of clothing confiscated from Abu Talb's apartment to be used by Scottish investigators.

Uppsala district court will deliver judgement tomorrow on Abu Talb and three other Palestinians charged with bomb attacks against Jewish and US property in Stockholm, Copenhagen and Amsterdam in 1985 and 1986.

The trial was held in Stockholm for security reasons.

Prosecutor Ulf Forsberg has demanded life imprisonment for Abu Talb and Marwan Iman and eight years each for Mustafa and Mahmoud Mougrabi.

Security personnel will strengthen already stringent anti-terrorist measures at airports around France with more luggage searches for arms and explosives, officials said yesterday.

About one piece of hand luggage in 10 will be searched manually at Roissy-Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports in Paris, security sources said.

but they saw no lava flowing from holes blown into a crater below the summit on the mountain's north side, geologist Steve Brantley said.

"There is some ice and snow being melted by the current activity, Brantley said, causing plumes of steam along with ash.

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Erupting volcano melts glaciers

REDOUBT volcano erupted more vigorously on Tuesday than it has since its first explosion to life, and intense heat from the exploding mountains was melting glaciers, the Alaska volcano observatory said.

Airlines, virtually grounded by volcanic ash clouds, were taking the highly unusual step of telling many holiday travellers to forget it — to stay out for the holidays, or at least until Redoubt calmed down and flying returned to normal.

But the postal service found a way to get mail in and out of Alaska. It chartered an Anchorage cargo company's slow-speed 1950's-vintage piston-driven planes, which are less susceptible to air-

borne ash than air-sucking jet engines. As a result, Northern Air Cargo managed to reduce a backlog of Christmas mail that was piling up in warehouses in Anchorage and Seattle.

The 10,197-foot (3,108 m) mountain 110 miles (180 km) southwest of Anchorage has been erupting constantly since last Thursday for the fourth time this century. But Tuesday morning Redoubt shook more violently than since the first blow-outs of its six-day eruption, shooting ash 33,000 feet (10,000 m) high.

Geologists got their first recent look at Redoubt during a break in ash and snow clouds Monday afternoon and reported fierce steam from melting

ice, but they saw no lava flowing from holes blown into a crater below the summit on the mountain's north side, geologist Steve Brantley said.

"There is some ice and snow being melted by the current activity, Brantley said, causing plumes of steam along with ash.

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INTERNATIONAL

S. Korean lawmaker convicted of spying

SEOUL, South Korea, Dec. 20, (AP): A national legislator accused of spying for communist North Korea was convicted and sentenced to 15 years in prison today, a lighter sentence than expected because the judge said the breakdown of the cold war era was a factor.

The maximum penalty for espionage is death. Suh Kyung-Won, a 52-year-old dissident farmer-turned politician, was convicted of espionage and "leaking state secrets" to communist North Korea, his nation's arch enemy since the division of the peninsula in 1945.

Presiding judge Hong Suk-Je said overwhelming

evidence indicated Suh had secretly visited North Korea leader Kim Il Sung in August 1988, received \$120,000 from communist agents and had ongoing contact and communications with North Korea, all in violation of the national security law.

Suh was ordered to forfeit to the government \$49,000 in unspent funds, allegedly from North Korea.

In delivering the sentence, the judge said "It was taken into consideration in sentencing that international trends have turned from the cold war era to an atmosphere of reconciliation since his (Suh's) visit to the North and the Seoul government has

been pursuing an active Northern policy" aimed at easing tensions.

The judge said "state secrets leaked by Suh to the North were not sensitive ones." He did not elaborate, but said Suh contacted North Korea before his 1988 election to the national assembly as well as after.

"Nonetheless, his visit to the North (as a national lawmaker) should be assessed at a different level than those by religious and student visitors," the judge said, in reference to a dissident clergyman and a radical woman student, both in jail for illegally

visiting North Korea.

Riot police firing tear gas stormed a university campus in Seoul today to break up a rally by hundreds of students demanding the release of a jailed radical student leader.

About 700 students throwing firebombs and rocks fought police for two hours in and outside Yonsei University in the third day of violent campus protests.

Several students were seen taken away by police, but no figures were available for arrests or injuries.

Students were protesting the arrest Monday of radical student leader Im Chong-Suk, 23, a fugitive

on the police wanted list who was arrested when he showed up at a Seoul college for a television interview.

South and North Korea made progress today in talks on preparing for a meeting of their prime ministers, but failed to reach a final agreement as the two sides differed over the agenda.

Political and military officials from South and North Korea met at the border town of Panmunjom and agreed on the name of the proposed meeting, the highest since the division of the Korean peninsula, and the composition of delegations.



Suh being led to the court.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Prisoners release for Christmas: Northern Ireland will release 350 prisoners to spend a week at Christmas with their families, the most ever let out of temporary release in the British province where IRA guerrillas are battling to oust Britain.

Those to be released include 133 convicted serving life sentences, a government spokesman said on Wednesday, adding that no prisoner serving a life sentence had ever "dishonoured" the pledge to return to jail after the week-long release period.

Meanwhile a leading Protestant politician, unionist Ken Maginnis, named 12 men he is convicted were behind an Irish Republican Army attack on a border post last week in which two British soldiers. (Reuters)

Naked man shot: A naked man charged through the streets of Bonn on Tuesday and was shot and wounded when he tried to force his way into the US ambassador's residence.

Police said the unnamed 25-year-old Senegalese-born Frenchman lost his temper after a row with his West German girlfriend. He peeled off his clothes and ran through the streets in broad daylight.

After unsuccessfully trying to rob an old woman, the man climbed over a wall into the garden of US Envoy Vernon Walters. His way was blocked by a guard as he ran up the steps to the residence and he was shot in the leg during a struggle. (Reuters)

Children treated for Aids: Six Swiss children are being treated with the Aids drug AZT after pricking themselves with drug addicts' needles discarded in parks and playgrounds.

Urs Schaad, a doctor at Berne's Inselspital Hospital, said on Tuesday he was treating the children, aged two to five, as possible Aids victims but said it was unlikely they had been infected with the killer virus.

Berne City council caused a controversy in June when, in an effort to confine the use of drugs, it voted to allow addicts to inject themselves in a small part outside the parliament building in the town centre. (Reuters)

\$320,000 compensation claimed: A Swede who was acquitted of the 1986 murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme is demanding two million kronor (\$320,000) compensation for the 10 months he was jailed for questioning and trial, news reports said.

The claim by Christer Pettersson, 42, was the highest on record in a criminal case, the national TV news agency reported. He had previously said he was not interested in the money.

Pettersson, a drifter with a long criminal record, was convicted last July, but won an appeal on the grounds of insufficient evidence. (AP)

Swiss warn of flu: Doctors in Switzerland have given a warning against a possible flu epidemic, which has already reached epidemic proportions in some parts of Europe.

Caused by the 'Shanghai' virus — because it originated in the Far East, the symptoms of the flu include high fever and a strong sensation of weariness accompanied by aches in the limbs.

According to the norms of the World Health Organisation, an epidemic occurs when the 100 out of 100,000 people were affected, and for Switzerland it is feared that an epidemic may occur in the coming weeks. (Kuna)

Moonshiners face lean Christmas: The "moonshiners" of Ireland face a lean Christmas.

"We are giving them a hard time," said the policeman leading the annual cat-and-mouse game with the fishermen and farmers who make a fiery illegal whiskey called Potteen (pronounced "pro-teen").

"We have had up to 10 seizures in the past three weeks," said superintendent Joe Ward, the head of the anti-Potteen squad which takes to the hills and islands of western Ireland to track down the stills where the mountain dew is concocted.

America

FBI ripped over: FBI agents intent on arresting former diplomat Felix Bloch on espionage charges, attempted to turn him family against him, his daughter says.

"They wanted my mother as the star witness. They were grasping at straws — they were desperate," Andrea Bloch, 26, said in yesterday's edition of the New York Post. The agents threatened to charge her mother, Lucille Bloch, as a co-conspirator, Ms Bloch charged.

"They were trying to pressure my father into breaking by using us," she said. "They wanted to make us so miserable that it would make him miserable." (AP)

Bush nominates Mrs Dukakis: In what may be a sign he is letting bygones be bygones, President Bush tapped Kitty Dukakis, wife of the man he defeated for the White House, for appointment yesterday to the US Holocaust Memorial Council.

Mrs Dukakis, who is Jewish, was named to succeed Milton Himmelfarb on the council, which is overseeing construction of a Holocaust memorial-museum in Washington near the mall, which extends from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol.

Dukakis, 52, has served on the president's commission on the Holocaust and has been active in the refugee policy group and the task force on Cambodian children. (UPI)

Judge limits North testimony: A federal judge yesterday placed strict limits on the prosecution's use of Oliver L. North as a witness in the Iran-Contra trial of former national security adviser John Poindexter.

US District Court Judge Harold Greene said prosecutors may only use evidence from the convicted ex-White House aide based on statements he made before July 15, 1987, the day Poindexter began testifying in Congress before a national television audience.

The restriction means the government is unable to use most of the testimony North gave at his own trial, last April, during which he frequently mentioned Poindexter, his former White House boss. (AP)

World War II planner dies: Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, who drafted the "Germany first" strategy, under which the allied coalition led by the United States and Britain won World War II, is dead. He was 92.

Wedemeyer, who had Alzheimer's disease, died Sunday at the Fairfax Retirement Centre at Fort Belvoir.



Cocaine haul

General view of part of a shipment of cocaine which was discovered in an Eastern Airlines warehouse in Bogota. The cocaine was to be shipped to US in typical Colombian ceramic figures. The captured cocaine weighed 250 kilos. (Reuters wirephoto)



Protests at NYT

Five protesters lie across the entrance to the New York Times head office protesting the newspaper's editorial policies regarding their coverage of El Salvador. The five, part of a larger group of protesters, were arrested when they refused to leave. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asia

Japanese submarine found: Divers have found one of two Japanese suicide submarines which went missing off the Indian ocean island of Madagascar during World War Two, state-run Radio Madagascar said.

A team of experts and divers from Japan and Madagascar found the 24-metre-long (80-foot) submarine in the bay of Antsiranana (formerly called Diego Suarez) at the northern tip of Madagascar last weekend, the radio reported.

The submarines were deployed in the area in May, 1942, to attack French and British warships. Their two or three-man crews were supposed to use the vessels as piloted torpedoes to ram enemy warships on suicide missions. (Reuters)

Leatherback turtles: Malaysian wildlife officials will fit endangered giant leatherback turtles with transmitters to monitor their movements with the aid of a French satellite and gather information that might save them from extinction.

Bernama news agency quoted officials as saying yesterday the turtles would be fitted with 30-gran (one-ounce) radio transmitters and 60-gran (two-ounce) battery packs from next year to enable experts to pinpoint their locations.

The leatherback turtle, which weighs up to 500 kg (2,000 pounds) and measures up to 1.5 metres (five feet), is one of the largest reptiles in the world. (Reuters)

Malaysia grounds US helicopters: The Malaysian air force has grounded its entire fleet of 33 US-made Nuri helicopters after a crash on Monday killed all 16 people on board including two army generals. Defence Minister Ahmad Rithauddeen said.

Checks will be made before the fleet is certified fit for service. Rithauddeen told reporters on Tuesday after bodies of the victims arrived in Kuala Lumpur for burial. (Reuters)

Latin America

Haiti cabinet reshuffled: A new cabinet took oaths of office Tuesday in a major shakeup replacing seven ministers, including three of the most criticised men in the government of Lt. Gen. Prosper Avril.

Avril also replaced the chief of police and retired a leading army general in the biggest government reshuffle since he took power in a bloodless coup on Sept 17, 1988.

State television announced the changes Monday night. (AP)

7 die in bus crash: A bus trying to outrance a train to a railroad crossing was broadsided and crushed in eastern Mexico Tuesday, killing at least seven passengers and injuring 25, the Mexican Red Cross said.

Angel Arandia of the Mexican Red Cross said the driver of the Triangulo Rojo bus tried to beat the train to the crossing at 8.30 am but was hit halfway across the tracks and dragged along.

At least seven people aboard the bus were killed and 25 were injured, he said. (UPI)

Amnesty given: The former head of President Augusto Pinochet's secret police has been given amnesty for the disappearances of 77 people detained after the 1973 coup that brought Pinochet to power, an attorney said Tuesday.

UK to give residence to 225,000 HK people

Britain offers package to assuage feelings

LONDON, Dec 20, (Reuters): Britain will grant full citizenship to 50,000 key Hong Kong residents and their families, allowing a total of about 225,000 Hong Kong Chinese the right to settle in the country, government sources said today.

Full British passports, immediately valid, would be issued to 50,000 "heads of household" in the run-up to the colony's handover to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, they added.

Details of the nationality scheme, designed to stem emigration from Hong Kong, were due to be announced by Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in Parliament later today.

Officials said the package was designed to give Hong Kong citizens most likely to emigrate an "insurance policy" of right of abode in Britain if needed after 1997, thus encouraging them to stay in the colony.

All applications for a full British passport must be recommended by the Hong Kong colonial government and no time scale on applications would be applied, the officials said.

"We will keep a proportion of the passports back until later on in the period before 1997, say until 1995 or thereabouts," an official said.

He added that the preponderance of passports granted would be to people in the private sector.

Government sources said legislation necessary for the package would be put before Parliament some time next year.

They added that it would take at least 18 months for a passport to be issued once an application had been lodged.

The official said he expected there would be a huge rush of applications. "It's going to be a massive exercise," he added.

The total of 225,000 is expected to be criticised in Hong Kong as too low to restore confidence. At the same time it is likely to be attacked as too high by right-wing members of the ruling Conservative Party, who oppose mass immigration and have threatened to vote against the package in parliament.

"We don't expect Hong Kong to be dancing in the streets," the official said. "But we think the numbers are right. They will give enough confidence in Hong Kong to enable people to carry on as before, to build for the future."

"The aim is to identify the people most important for the continued administration and prosperity of Hong Kong, to keep the key people in Hong Kong rather than draw them here."

The sources said this would include such categories as nurses, teachers and aircraft engineers.

They added that the Chinese government had been informed of the move under the terms of the 1984 agreement governing Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule in 1997.

Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, a local councillor warned today that Britain's long-awaited nationality package for Hong Kong people could cause some divisions, but most residents of the British colony said they did not plan to lose any sleep over the announcement.

"The general public think they will never get a chance to go to the UK, so I don't think they will be interested," district councillor Lee Wing-Tat said.

Due to an eight hour time difference, a Hong Kong radio relay will broadcast in the middle of tonight the British announcement on granting passports to some Hong Kong people before Beijing resumes sovereignty over the colony in 1997.

"I'm not going to sacrifice my sleep over it, it's just a public relations exercise by Britain," said a 29-year-old office worker as she queued up at a lunch counter.

All but 13,000 have been classified as economic migrants seeking a better way of life, not

Administration of the scheme and selection of people considered essential to the colony's prosperity would be carried out entirely in Hong Kong, the sources said.

The keenly-awaited nationality package was promised to the colony by Britain after the Chinese action on student demonstrations in Beijing last June, torpedoing confidence among Hong Kong citizens about their future under China's rule.

About 3.25 million of Hong Kong's 5.7 million people hold British passports, but the documents give them no right to live in Britain.



Vietnamese refugees shout slogans during a protest by thousands at Hong Kong's Whitehead refugee detention centre. (Reuters wirephoto)

MPs back expulsion

Chinese boat people

Japan to deport

LONDON, Dec 20, (AP): Legislators yesterday endorsed Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's controversial policy of forcibly repatriating Vietnamese from Hong Kong and the government indicated the deportations of boat people will resume.

The 309-219 vote in the House of Commons came after an acrimonious three-hour debate in which opposition legislators accused the Conservative Party government of bringing shame and international disgrace on Britain.

London suspended forced repatriations to allow for the parliamentary debate after the first deportations — 51 Vietnamese bundled on to an aircraft in the early hours of Dec 12 — provoked an international outcry.

"It was a decision that gave pleasure to none and, I acknowledge, has caused anxiety to many," Foreign Office Minister Francis Maude told the Commons last night.

But he said the burden of 57,000 boat people now in Hong Kong holding camps and the prospect of thousands more arriving when the sailing season begins in the spring had become intolerable.

All but 13,000 have been classified as economic migrants seeking a better way of life, not

political refugees with a right to asylum.

"For those of us who do have those responsibilities, they cannot be dodged, they cannot be shirked and we won't shirk them," Maude said, indicating forced repatriations will resume.

He gave no date.

"Of course the United States has been critical. There are historical reasons for this. But ... they have had no realistic alternative to propound," Maude added.

The immigration bureau of the Justice Ministry said the remaining 902 Chinese immigrants will be sent back to China after screening by the Chinese government.

Immigration officials said a record number of more than 2,200 boat people arrived on Japanese shores this year compared with only 219 refugees last year.

Japanese news reports said immigration officials suspected that boats carrying refugees from Vietnam were lured to relay ports in southern China where they were offered supplies and bigger boats in return for passage of Chinese who hoped to land jobs in Japan.

The government announced that the first group of 301 illegal Chinese immigrants — 270 males and 31 females, including 13 children — will be sent back to China tomorrow aboard a ship chartered by the Chinese government.

The ship is scheduled to leave the southern port of Nagasaki tomorrow morning and arrive in Fuzhou in Fujian province on Saturday.

Claims by the Khmer Rouge military radio that Moscow's advisers continued to

Bush eases ban on China

WASHINGTON, Dec 20, (AP): President George Bush has eased US economic sanctions against China as Secretary of State James Baker expressed "regrets" he may have misled Americans about high-level US contacts with Beijing.

The White House announced that Bush had approved the export of three communications satellites to be launched by China, and had ended a prohibition on the Export-Import Bank providing help to companies doing business in China.

The President's actions came as Baker said through a spokeswoman he regretted that in a recent television interview, he may have misled the public about the two trips to China by high-level US officials.

Whether the administration was misleading the public prompted close questioning of White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater, who mounted a vigorous defence of Bush's secret contact with the Chinese leadership.

The furor erupted after it was learned Monday that National Security adviser Brent Scowcroft and deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger had visited Beijing in secret in July, in addition to their previously disclosed trip earlier this month.

Bush notified Congress that he was exempting the three communications satellites, which are being built or renovated by the Hughes Aircraft Co., from economic sanctions imposed on China. Hughes is selling the satellites to firms in Australia and Hong Kong for launch on a Chinese rocket.

"The sale of these satellites represents approximately \$300 million worth of business for US firms," said a statement by Fitzwater.

The statement said the move was "consistent with the President's expressed determination, in imposing sanctions last June, to maintain commercial relations with China."

The July trip came at a time when the US administration said high-level visits to Beijing were banned.

Baker, appearing on the US network ABC on Dec 10, called the December trip by Scowcroft and Eagleburger "the first time we've had high-level US officials go to the People's Republic of China." Baker noted he himself had publicly met high Chinese officials in other countries.

Asked about the apparent discrepancy, spokeswoman Margaret D. Tutwiler said yesterday that Baker "felt obligated to protect the secrecy of a mission that the President wished to have classified." He regrets that he may have misled some.

On the satellites, the White House statement said, "approval of these licenses is in keeping with the President's policy not to disrupt normal commercial relations with China."

But Democratic Sen. Albert Gore called Bush's approval "a true outrage" and "another effort to curry favour with the hardliners in Beijing."

Gore sponsored the legislation that forbids the launch of US-manufactured satellites on Chinese rockets unless the President declares it to be in the US national interest, as Bush has done.

Trying to counter congressional criticism that the administration has been too friendly with China, the White House issued a separate two-page "justification" of the satellite decision.

Two of the satellites are being built by Hughes Aircraft Co. for Aussat, an Australian company,

be involved in military operations in Cambodia could not be independently verified. Most Western analysts regard Khmer Rouge claims with some suspicion.

As Cambodian rebels, including the murderous Khmer Rouge, continued to fight government troops near the Thai border in an effort to seize control of the southeast Asian nation of seven million, the government in Phnom Penh is asking the United Nations to step in and run elections.

The commentary was broadcast on Phnom Penh radio yesterday and a transcript was seen in Bangkok today.

The Khmer Rouge claims that the Soviet Union is sending experts to the battlefields of western Cambodia to provide instruction in chemical warfare and repair tanks damaged by the guerrillas.

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GTD plan to use choppers for traffic control

Network to link facilities

A SPECIAL study is being conducted by the General Traffic Department (GTD) to purchase helicopters for use in controlling traffic in Kuwait and the director-general of the GTD is in intensive contacts with top officials at the Ministry of Interior, a senior GTD official said.

Li Col Mustapha Juma, director of the Traffic Operation Department and head of the Public Relations Division told a local daily that the GTD is involved in contracting a special operations and telecommunications room which is expected to be completed next month.

The proposed room will be fitted with the latest telecommunication facilities and equipment enabling the department to contact all traffic patrols and personnel in

all locations in the country through wear-on-walkie-talkies, Juma said. He added that the new facilities will also enable officials to contact all personnel at varying higher levels at the ministry and also with commanders of different traffic departments in all five governorates of the country.

Inter-link

Juma said that the computer-based new telecommunication networks will inter-link all traffic police facilities in the country with the GTD command headquarters. The planning department at the GTD is currently engaged in a study aimed at identifying the highest traffic roads in the country with a view to deploying extra traffic police patrols.

He said the Department of Planning would set up meters at the entrances of all streets in the country, in co-ordination with the Traffic Studies Division at Kuwait Municipality and the relevant personnel at the Public Works Ministry.

He revealed the GTD's intention to hold special training for traffic patrols on motorcycles will include lectures on traffic laws and related codes, and that special modernized-equipped bikes will be procured for the GTD on a regular annual basis for this purpose.

Tender

He said that the Kuwait Municipality planning the necessary studies and effort for the proposed central traffic control system and that the final arrangements will

be taken for this project and the related construction tender invited during the first half of the next year.

He added that the project, once operational, would enable the GTD to centrally control the traffic flow around the country during official motorcades and emergency cases, to facilitate the easy passage of say, ambulances, fire-engines, electrical or water maintenance vehicles.

He said that the new operations and telecommunication room will enable the GTD to locate through a computerised network any malfunctioning traffic signal anywhere in the country, and provide camera-aided control of the highest-traffic roads in the country, particularly during rush-hours and official occasions.

Balanced foreign policy: Ossaimi

KUWAIT, Dec 20, (Kuna): Kuwaiti State Minister for Foreign Affairs Saud Ossaimi stressed here today that Kuwait's foreign policy is based on non-interference in other countries' internal affairs and establishment of balanced relations with the two superpowers.

Ossaimi, in a lecture at Kuwait University over aspects of Kuwait's foreign policy, said the foreign policy of Kuwait is highly respected at the international level due to its credibility.

Kuwait's foreign policy materializes the traditions and morals of the Kuwaiti people, he said, noting that such policy stems from its Pan-Arab obligations particularly in respect with the Palestinian question and the uprising which Kuwait backs morally and materially, as well as the Lebanese crisis.

Kuwait's Islamic obligations are the second pillar of its foreign policy, he said, citing examples of Kuwait's relentless efforts in supporting Islamic issues, such as its mediation to solve the Turkish-Bulgarian dispute and the aid extended by the Kuwait Fund for Economic Development.



Salem receives Mbake

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah yesterday received in his office Senegalese Ambassador to Kuwait Abdou Lahad Mbake. The fraternal exchanges centred on a number of issues of common interest.

266 types of fish in Kuwait waters

Research conducted by the Fisheries Control in Kuwait waters indicated the existence of 266 types of fish of which a small number are considered of the excellent and traditional variety and most popular among consumers. The conclusions are that 90 per cent of fish in Kuwait waters are considered not popular among consumers in Kuwait.

The research added that the level of stock of these popular types of fish makes it a viable proposition to

increase the offering of such types of fish in local markets. It indicated that some of the uncommon types are characterised with identical characteristics as traditional fish and are displayed for consumers at lower prices.

The research also indicated that fish are high in protein and contain very minute amounts of ranging from 1-12 per cent of total weight, making them an ideal staple food for the population.

Sharia faculty requires upgrading

DR EJAIL AL NASHMI, the recently appointed dean of the Sharia and Islamic Studies College at Kuwait University told a local daily that his duties are mainly concerned with supporting and adding momentum to the streamlining process of the college.

Describing his new post, he said that the dean's job bears great responsibilities and heavy duties. He added that he will exert all possible effort towards fulfilling the purposes of his job to gain the full support and trust of the teaching staff at the college.

Dr Nashmi indicated that the college requires more development at the present time, and that he has several future plans to improve standards. He stated that more concern will be given to students issues and problems along with group participation in managing the college with the co-operation of the teaching staff.

He said that regular evaluations will be organised on college curricula. He added that the college is recently suffering from a shortage in teaching staff and therefore he indicated that efforts will be made to increase their number and open fields of specialisation.

With respect to post-graduate studies at the Sharia and Islamic Studies College, Dr Nashmi pointed out that one of his duties is to emphasise post-graduate programmes at the college.

He announced that several post-graduate fields will be opened for students during next September stressing on the fact that the college administration will provide students with the adequate academic atmosphere.

He indicated that he will resume his duties by organising a meeting with college teaching staff, employees and students in a phased programme.

On the other hand, the new Science College Dean, Dr Adnan Al Akeel has resumed his duties.

Problems of youth researched at KU

Changes cause generation gap

DR MOHAMMED Faraj, a staff member at Kuwait University Education and Psychology Department said that HH the Amir has repeatedly stressed that Kuwaiti youth and strength rests in its youth and that more attention should be devoted to youth activities to overcome all the difficulties they may face.

In a symposium held Monday at the Fundamental Education College headquarters in Adailya on youth problems in Kuwait, Faraj stated that some individuals may claim youthfulness while in their 50's.

On the other hand, Saud Al Enizi, a staff member at the Social Studies Department presented a general overview and indicated that researchers suffer from a lack of data and statistics relating to this issue. He added that only a small number of studies were conducted on youth related issues.

He pointed out that he and Dr Adel Al Hawari, head of the Social Studies Department, are at present conducting field research relating to youth problems such as leisure time.

He indicated that studies have entered the first implementation stage and added that conclusions will be introduced in the future. He explained the issue of youth problems in Kuwait theoretically rather than practically.

Youths ranging between 15-24 years of age form 21 per cent of the total Kuwaiti population. Females represent 20 per cent of this age group, and males 21.5 per cent.

Saud Al Enizi added that studies will also try to display some information on marital status of youth. Statistics revealed that 82 per cent of the above group are not married,

stating that this brings us to conclude that the number of unmarried youths is increasing. With regards to the female population, he pointed out that 86.9 per cent of the sample are unmarried explaining the same conclusion as in the case of males. He said that the increase in the number of divorce cases explains such high numbers.

Regarding divorce statistics, Enizi said that in 1975, 11.3 per cent of young Kuwaiti males were involved in divorce, while in 1980, the percentage increased to 12.6 per cent and to 16.5 per cent in 1985. He stressed that this phenomenon required more in-depth research. On the other hand, among females of the same age groups, statistics revealed that divorce rate reached 15.7 per cent in 1975 and increased to 16.9 per cent in 1985.

He indicated that these statistics reveal a big difference in the situation related to place and time. People are more liable to accept traditions and norms which they refused and rejected in the past. He added that youth problems in Kuwait differ from problems that youths in America may face. He stressed that youth problems will directly reflect on family atmosphere and on society.

Enizi pointed out some factors which helped in creating these problems namely, the speedy social change which started in 1946 after the discovery of oil and exporting the first oil shipment abroad. He added that social and economic activities practised by individuals have been altered and are totally dissimilar to the past. A difference of cultures between fathers and sons has created a generation gap. He indicated that some fathers

are still playing a dominant role in the process of deciding when their children will marry.

Enizi explained other factors which also include the economic part of the issue. He said that the sudden and speedy economic boost in the country has speeded up the structure of consumption style of individuals. He pointed out that 50 per cent of Kuwaitis are in debt for long years to come.

Enizi indicated that another existing issue which he called a catastrophe is related to all society members not youth only. He said that this is represented by individuals dependence on others. He indicated that in Kuwait there are a total of 150,000 maids due to the boost in economy. He pointed out that one other factor is that most Kuwaiti youths abhor manual jobs, which is considered to be the most productive sector of society.

Meanwhile, Dr Mohammed Al Mhaini, a teaching staff member at the Education College at Kuwait University said that society includes several groups of individuals adding that children and youths represent 50 per cent of the total population in Kuwait. He said youths in general are continually experiencing rapid change, which includes internal, biological, behavioural, and social changes.

He stated that looking at the issue from another point, government authorities and the society in general, are, he once again, blamed for such problems by not letting youth for example, to specify recreational areas like in public gardens and clubs. He added that society has failed to create well-established and strong educational establishments and therefore it has unwillingly created this problem.

Adan, Jahra casualty wards severely criticised

CASUALTY departments at hospitals have been accused of negligence by many patients. In particular, the casualty departments at Adan and Jahra Hospitals came in for severe criticism by patients during the past period. Accusations included questioning the qualifications of doctors and the nursing staff employed at these hospitals.

A local daily interviewed a number of officials at both hospitals to obtain their view-point on these grievances.

Abdul Raouf Al Jawhary, director of Jahra Hospital said that nearly 80 per cent of cases received at the hospital's casualty department do not need urgent attention. He stressed that the level of qualifications of doctors is high, but called for an increase in the number of hospital departments and sections.

He commented that the shifts system is only intended to serve urgent cases which do not exceed 20 per cent at their peak. He indicated that in specific seasons such as September, October, February and

March, the number of patients received by the casualty department increases dramatically. He attributed this phenomenon to the fact that health services are provided free of charge.

System He said that it is necessary that a complete decentralisation system is essential for improvement of the health system.

Meanwhile, Dr Adnan Al Aidan, deputy director of Adan Hospital, said that the hospital has the largest casualty department among all hospitals in Kuwait. Commenting on complaints by patients of hospital negligence, he said that this is attributed to a lack of residents health awareness. He called for more information programmes to heighten health awareness campaigns.

He added that patients only see the negative aspects of services and commented that patients should follow the rules and regulations specified at hospitals to avoid the feeling that they are being neglected.

Police apprehend notorious robbers

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A NOTORIOUS gang of robbers has been recently apprehended by police. Interior Ministry public relation department announced yesterday. Four Jordanians, Emad A., Atef M., Belal M., and Hyder M., and an Iraqi, Fadel A., were arrested in the city. Police said that after they arrested Atef M., Emad A. tried to attack the policemen in order to free his colleague, but the

police overcame him and later arrested the whole gang.

The five robbers were responsible for breaking and entering a number of shops, banks and companies. They used oxygen cylinders to break open doors of a number of gold shops in several areas. The Sabhan branch of National Bank, Sabah Hospital branch of Al Ahli Bank, in addition to cracking the safes of two

companies in Sabhan and Al Rai area. The police said that the robbers used gloves in order not to leave their fingerprints behind.

Hawalli police detectives arrested Khaled N., Iraqi and Ahmad Y., Yemeni, for stealing several equipments from a camp in Mishrif desert. The owner of the tent informed the police of the robbery and police arrested Khaled who admitted carrying out the robbery along with his partner.

Security personnel are investigating the mysterious death of a young Saudi national whose decomposed body was found in a municipal rubbish container at Jileeb Al Shiyukh area.

One of the citizens noticed a foul smell emanating from the container, took a closer look and discovered the body of the deceased.

The body has been transferred to the medical examiner's office to determine the exact cause of death.

Borsina award

ROME, Dec 19, (Kuna): Kuwait News Agency's correspondent Sameer Qarutti was the only foreign correspondent among 11 reporters to win this year's award "Borsina".

The ceremony was held at Chiusi City in the North Tuscany province to award journalists who contributed in writing articles about this historical city.

The committee of judges decided that Qarutti who wrote an article titled "The Historical Green Chiusi" published in the Kuwaiti press, had given a real sight of the modern and historic Chiusi from all sides.

UAE anti-drug squads to get special bonus

A SPECIAL allowance averaging 40 per cent of salaries is to be allocated to officers of the drugs squad in the United Arab Emirates.

Disclosing this incentive, Brigadier Dhahi Khalfan, general commander of Dubai Police said that this appreciation is intended to encourage personnel to shoulder their responsibility within the programme formulated by the state to fight smuggling and proliferation of drugs.

In an interview with the UAE based daily Al Bayan, Brigadier Khalfan said that the UAE's Minister of State for Internal Affairs Major General Humoud Ben Ali had endorsed the relevant proposal suggested by the State's Anti-Drugs Committee.

He added that other provisions will be incorporated to cover monitoring, follow up and control operations which might be undertaken by policemen to pursue drug smugglers.

The official lauded the success realised by the security forces in seizing several days ago a large quantity of drugs.

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- 5. EDEE General Store, Shuwaikh, Opp. Sunkist, Mon-Fri 9:30 am to 5:30 pm, Tel: 4910724
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Economic recommendations will lower indebtedness: Awadi

Better results for banks

RECOMMENDATIONS contained in the Joint Economic Committee report for reactivating the national economic movement related to debts not exceeding KD 250,000 will restrict the volume of indebtedness and eventually alleviate the burden on banks and debtors, Abdullah Al Awadi, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Al Ahli Bank of Kuwait was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the relevant recommendation will facilitate the settlement process and reactivate the economic movement. He commented that the committee decision allowing debtors to deal with their mortgaged assets was good and practical and will provide the necessary resilience for real estate and equities sectors.

Speaking of the spot settlement programme suggested by the committee, the official said that this programme which had been designed to handle the debts of small debtors will lead to a good result for both banks and debtors, adding that the criteria to be set up by the Central Bank in this connection will be sufficient.

Commenting on the suggestion for purchasing of the joint debts by the banks, the official said that this step will serve the organisational purpose of the committee's report and will accelerate the settlement process. But he added that action will require a lot of administrative efforts to be exerted by the relevant banks.

Airfares stable although seasonal exodus begins

No delays at Kuwait Airport

By Jadranka Porter and Diana Abu Haidar
Arab Times staff

THOUSANDS of Kuwaitis and expatriates are leaving the country for entertainment spots in the Middle East, Europe and the Far East making the Christmas and New Year season the most lucrative fortnight in local travel business.

Civil Aviation sources told the Arab Times that 400 regular flights and 20 extra flights are expected to take off from Kuwait Airport in the next 10 days.

Airlines and travel agents report that the busiest routes are to Egypt, Cyprus, Dubai, London and Kuala Lumpur. Flights to London and Kuala Lumpur are still fully booked but there are still some vacant seats on flights to London and Kuala Lumpur.

There have been no major delays at Kuwait Airport since the 16th of December. The 16 airlines are predicted unless the incoming flights are late due to travel rush and slow processing of passengers at other airports.

Demand
Civil Aviation sources also said that flights are being distributed around the clock to avoid any unnecessary delays. The airfares appear to remain stable despite the increase in demand, but travel agents say money is no object for expatriates who are leaving the country for entertainment spots in the Middle East, Europe and the Far East.

Year's eve.
British Airways flights to London are fully booked until Dec 24 and there are no seats on London-Kuwait flights until Dec 26 when students return to Kuwait for winter holidays. The airline which operates daily flights to and from London has no vacant seats in both directions between Jan 2 and Jan 8. There are long waiting lists for BA flights to London today and tomorrow, said the airline's sales executive, Jalal Bunnai. He advised people who are making last-minute travel arrangements to keep on trying as there have been cancellations.

"Passengers from Kuwait are changing their mind all the time," he said.
Paris is another popular European destination. Air France flights to Paris today are fully booked and flights for the next 10 days are almost full.

Tours
Kuwait Airways, which operates two regular flights to Manila, has introduced two extra flights a week to the Philippines this month, but no seats are available before Jan 2. Egypt Air which operates nine flights a week to Cairo, Luxor and Alexandria is fully booked on Dec 21, 23, 24 and 30 with most passengers being Egyptians going on home leave and Kuwaitis seeking fun at Cairo's night spots on the New Year's Eve.

"The travel agents are constantly being asked to book flights for their clients," said Mohamed Kamel of Egypt Air.

Travel agents, who charge approximately KD200 for a five-day package tour to Egypt with accommodation in a five-star hotel, say the Mediterranean country is the favourite holiday destination this season. It is closely followed by Cyprus where the rates at KD170 per package tour including ticket and accommodation in a first-class hotel are slightly lower. Also popular are trips to the Far East despite steeper rates, says Ghasan Saadeh, tours agent at Al Ghanim Travel Agency.

He sells six days in Bangkok, Thailand, for KD300 per person and a week in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, for KD350.

Closer to home seven-day package tours to Muscat can be bought for KD200 and similar rates are charged elsewhere in the Gulf. Although he has done good business in selling package tours Saadeh claims that airline tickets are best sellers.

In the Gulf flights to Dubai are fully booked while only a few seats are left vacant on flights bound for Bahrain and Muscat. As the mass exodus continues travel agents rub their hands at the prospect of filling their coffers.

Increase
Saadeh claims that the business in December has increased by up to 70 per cent as compared to sales in September and rivals the peak periods during summer holiday season.

Abdulla Yusuf of Al Bahain Travel Agency says sales in December have doubled from the previous

month.
Even the labour traffic which is normally not linked to the Christmas and New Year festive season has gone up with many Sri Lankan maids coupling their biennial leave with end-of-the-year holidays.

Delta Travel, the agent of Air Lanka, reports that a rise in Colombo-bound traffic began in November with most passengers booked to return to Kuwait in the first week of January.

The only sector that has not lived up to the airlines' expectations is traffic to India that in December usually results in overbookings. Gulf Air, Kuwait Airways, and Air India have all noted this month what Air India's George Tarakan called "a slump" compared to the traffic in December last year and in 1987. Air India has recorded 90 per cent occupancy instead of expected long waiting lists. Air India, Kuwait Airways and British Airways hiked the fares to India in November by about KD10 but Tarakan denies that the airlines are responsible for the decline in traffic in this normally busy period.

He attributed the somewhat slow sales to the industrial action by Indian Airlines, the domestic airline, which disrupted the connecting flight schedules.

To offset the decline in December traffic Air India plans to woo first-class and business-class passengers with offers of preferential hotel rates with business centre facilities in major cities in India and around the world.

US customs co-operate with Kuwait

TOP-LEVEL officials of the General Customs Authority through the offices of the US Embassy in Kuwait are involved in a co-operative effort with the US customs in enhancing the expertise of Kuwaiti officials, a senior Kuwaiti customs official said.

Speaking at a lecture organised by the authority, Ibrahim Al Ghanim said that though Kuwaiti inspectors have become quite proficient in their detection methods, novel methods used by smugglers — especially those involved in smuggling drugs which can be easily concealed — make it imperative that Kuwaiti customs officials be given refresher courses into the "modus operandi" of these drug smugglers.

Meanwhile, an expert at the US Customs Department, Sam Dunaider also speaking at the lecture praised the Kuwaiti Customs Control and described it as highly praiseworthy for its efficiency, and dedication to duty. He commented that smuggling narcotics into Kuwait has now become a "nightmare" for smugglers due to the concentrated efforts of Kuwaiti customs officials.

However, the official warned that there is an "international mafia" that smuggles and circulates narcotics around the world. He said that six per cent Americans take narcotics at least once a month. This percentage costs the USA about \$100 million a year.

He added that there are many countries in the world that are considered as prime sources of planting and distributing narcotics with Colombia, Turkey, Lebanon and Pakistan heading the list.

Shuaiba a model area for industry, says Ajeel

Silver jubilee Saturday

THE Public Administration for Shuaiba Industrial Area celebrates its silver jubilee on Saturday under the patronage of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem.

The area will organise a seminar on development of the industrial areas in the Arab Gulf states aimed at exchanging expertise in operating the various activities in the area. Working papers will be submitted at the seminar by the UN Industrial Development Organisation, Arab Organisation for Industrial Development, Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consultations, Arab Planning Institute and Kuwait Industrial Bank.

The area has successfully developed a model industrial area to facilitate incorporating different industries — specifically those related to the petrochemicals and oil industries, according to Naser Al Ajeel, deputy director general for administrative and financial affairs.

The area offers direct and indirect services for companies settling in the area such as controlling air and water pollution, fire-fighting, security and safety services.

The area is presently looking into the feasibility of undertaking several new projects such as the establishment of a central station to treat liquid industrial wastes which is estimated to cost about KD13 million.

In this respect, the area has contracted with an American consulting office to undertake a study of the project and provide relevant designs.

In the course of the coming five-year-plan 1990/1995, a main building will be built which will be the headquarters of the administration including two networks for fire-fighting in the Western Area of Shuaiba Industrial Area. The eastern coast of the area will also be developed, the official said.

The fire fighting network project is envisaged to cost KD6 million. Additionally, cooling water pumping stations will be expanded at a cost of KD31.7 million. The basic structure of the area has been developed at a cost of KD15 million.

Evaluation studies of economic benefits of industrial projects that are intended to be

carried out in the area are undertaken. The studies focus on markets that are available for marketing products of these projects and the link between the project and the national economy. The studies also aim at protecting the industrial investors by providing them with a clear picture about the financial and marketing position of these projects.

He said that the area has invested about KD240 million in several industrial projects since its establishment till date. However, he commented that the most serious problems facing the area is the limited authority granted it. As an example he said that the authority is not empowered to levy punishment on any company in the area violating restrictions of air and water pollution. The authority is limited to only notifying the Environment Protection Council about these violations. He added that the highest rate of pollution in Kuwait is recorded at Shuaiba Industrial Area and commented that the environment protection centre at the area should be given broader powers to redress pollution in the area.



Sheikh Salem receives

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah received at his office yesterday, the Governor of Jahra, Sheikh Ali Al Abdullah Al Sabah and members of the Jahra Governorate Council. Meanwhile, Sheikh Salem discussed with the chairman of the Driving Schools matters relating to the opening of these schools. This came during a meeting Sheikh Salem held with chairman of the Kuwait Motoring Company, Brig. Fuad Musaed Al Saleh and the company board members. Ministry of Interior Undersecretary, Maj. Gen. Yousef Al Khorafi, attended.



Alghanim announces winner of 1990 Racer

The winner of Alghanim "Place the Name and Win" promotion for the 1990 Racer is Tarek A. Abdulkarim Ibrahim. The grand drawing took place on Sunday, 17 December at Al Rai showroom under supervision of representative from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The Racer has been designed to meet the demands of international technology for the next decade. It passes all current American standards for performance and safety, this car is a perfect combination of well-known German engineering and precision quality.

Cars from Daewoo are the result of extensive development following an ambitious programme to produce world-class cars in Korea.

Each car goes through some very rugged testing, including speed testing on West Germany's Autobahn, 6.5 kilometres of European travel and extensive desert runs in the American southwest.

Teetering the latest aerodynamic styling, the Racer is a product of Daewoo, one of the largest conglomerates in the world. Daewoo continues to build friendships and partnerships around the world through its international network of over 70 subsidiaries and brand offices.

Alghanim would like to thank all the participants in the contest to win the 1990 Racer. There were over 40,000 entries, so Tarek A. Abdulkarim Ibrahim has everyone's congratulations.

Medals for 10 Kuwaitis

60 GCC personalities honoured in Muscat

GCC leaders honoured today 60 Arab Gulf personalities who have contributed in fields of religion, politics, economy, journalism, medicine, art, literature and sports.

The celebration was held in a special ceremony at the Bustan Palace.

Leaders of the GCC states bestowed special decorations on this occasion.

This is a new initiative by the council on the occasion of the 10th GCC summit, it is the first of its kind since the establishment of the council in 1981.

On this occasion Secretary General of the GCC Abdullah Yaquob Bishara spoke of the aim behind this honouring that will further foster the act of giving.

He pointed out to the humanitarian and social dimension of the initiative.

10 Kuwaiti figures were honoured, 9 from the UAE, 10 from Bahrain, 10 from Qatar, 10 from Oman and 10 from Saudi Arabia.

The Kuwaitis extended their thanks to both HH the Amir of Kuwait and Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed. Some of the Kuwaitis honoured said this tribute carries a special significance to their role and boosts the act of giving.

The list of honoured Kuwaiti personalities are as follows:

■ Sheikh Abdullah Al Jabbar, born in 1901, and headed the literature club in the year 1921. He also worked on establishing the orphanage house in 1939.

In 1971 Sheikh Abdullah Al Jabbar took the position of Amir's advisor and is still holding that post.

■ Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, born in 1945, has assumed several international, regional and local sports positions.

He headed the Kuwaiti Football Union, the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee and the Asian Council.

Sheikh Fahd also participated in the establishment of several sports unions and organisations.

■ Abdul Aziz Hamad Al Saqer, born in 1913 and heads the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry since 1959 until the present moment, is considered one of the Kuwaiti personalities that represent old and new Kuwait.

Saqer has also assumed several Arab and international posts such as the head of the Arab Chambers of Trade and Commerce and Agriculture in 1965-68.

■ Dr Saleh Al Ojairi, born in 1922 has several important and significant accomplishments in the field of astronomy.

He has acquired several certificates in this field the last of which is an honorary doctors degree from Kuwait University in 1981.

Al Ojairi was also honoured by the state through Kuwait's Foundation for Advancement of Science and the Kuwaiti Science Club.

A special observatory was named after him in Kuwait.

■ Abdul Wahab Al Qatami is considered one of the greatest skippers in the history of Kuwait.

■ Ahmed Mishari Al Adwani, born in 1923 had assumed the post of head of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, in 1973.

■ Sheikh Yousef Bin Issa Al Gumi is one of the founders of the first schools in Kuwait and worked as the headmaster.

■ Hamad Issa Al Rujairi assumed several diplomatic and ministerial positions such as the Ministry of Housing and Social Affairs.

He is considered one of the pioneers in the field of theatre, culture and arts in Kuwait.

He established the social arts centre.

■ Abdul Rahman Al Sumait is an academic who works in the charity field through the Muslim African Committee.

Computer virus arrives

MANAMA, Dec 20, (AP): The "Aids Package" computer virus which has damaged computer data world-wide has reached the Middle East, a local insurance firm reported today.

Peter Evans, the press officer of the Arab Insurance Group said his company received one of the floppy disks packaged as an "Aids Information Introduction Diskette," discovered it in time and destroyed it.

Evans said the company asked the local English-language Gulf daily news newspaper to report the incident to warn other companies in the region.

"All companies in Bahrain should be alerted to the danger, as clearly Bahrain is on the mailing list for these disks," Trevor Johnson, the Arig Data Processing manager told the newspaper.

The newspaper said it also informed Britain's Scotland Yard police which is leading the investigation into what is believed to be a major international computer virus operation.

Scotland Yard has said that at least 10,000 virus infected disks that can cripple computers have been mailed around the world.

The disk, once loaded, purportedly to give advice about the killer disease Aids, asks for a "licence fee" to be sent to Postal Box 87-17-44 in Panama.

Scotland Yard said in London earlier in the week that it had located the Panama address and was pursuing enquiries with the authorities in that country.

Evans told the Associated Press his company was on the alert following reports about the virus from London.

Amir meets Sheikh Issa Bin Salman

(Continued from Page 1)

Regional analysts believe renewed relations between the two would be a major step towards Gulf stability and a final peace between Iran and Iraq, and speculated that this might be part of the new GCC move.

This year's summit has taken an even-handed approach to the former combatants, which remain in a state of armed tension 16 months after the firing ceased.

In his opening summit address, Sultan Qaboos said he believed both Iran and Iraq were ready for peace.

The search for a final settlement of the war has proved elusive with Iran insisting Iraq first withdraw its troops from its land while Iraq has revived claims for sovereignty over the Shatt Al Arab waterway leading to the Gulf.

Senior GCC officials have said agreement on a unified GCC frontiers was a key issue of the talks. Without GCC unity structure would be difficult.

The GCC objects to continued EEC tariffs and quotas, it further stance in external trade talks would be difficult. The GCC objects to continued EEC tariffs and quotas, it further stance in external trade talks would be difficult.

His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jabbar Al Ahmed this morning met with the Amir of Bahrain Sheikh Issa Bin Salman Al Khalifa.

Later on, His Highness met with President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

Last night His Highness the Amir met with Sultan Qaboos Bin Saeed of Oman.

Also last night His Highness the Amir received at his residence at "Al Bustan" palace UAE President Sheikh Zayed and then Bahrain's Amir Sheikh Issa.

Discussions at the meetings dealt with issues on the agenda of the summit as well as relations between Kuwait and other GCC countries.

The GCC leaders today received two messages from the chairman of Sudan's Revolutionary Command Council Gen. Omar Al Bashir and Somali President Siad Barre.

The Sudanese leader, in his message, described the GCC as a cornerstone for Arab unity and an advanced step on the way of realizing Arab aspirations.

President Barre wished the conferees success in achieving the objectives of the Arab nation.

GCC secretary-general Abdullah Bishara and the official spokesman for the Muscat summit, Omani information minister will hold a press conference tomorrow to tackle important issues debated at the summit.

The GCC ministerial council, meanwhile, completed its amendments on the draft communiqué which will be presented to the leaders tomorrow morning in their final meeting.

Emerging from the session, Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yousef Bin Alawi Bin Abdulla told reporters minor amendments have been introduced on the draft which contains political, economic and cultural and other fields of co-operation among the six states of the council.

Asked what the summit would say about the situation between Iran and Iraq, Alawi said that the council considers the Iranians desire to increase co-operation with the states of the GCC as "a positive step within framework of international principles in making available the appropriate atmosphere for stability and peace in the region."

"The members of the council view any steps seeking co-operation with neighbouring countries, especially Iran, as positive endeavours," the Omani minister reiterated.

Commenting on a report published today that the summit has commissioned Oman to make contacts with Iran on improving the relations with GCC, Alawi did not deny the report but said that "each country (in the GCC) has special interests with Iran and therefore this will be the basis for any talks with Iran which should be carried by individual states as suited to them."

Omani Al Watan newspaper said this morning that the Sultanate was asked to start talks with Iran under a new plan to normalise the relations between the two sides.

The Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, meanwhile, has finalised drafting the Muscat declaration which will be issued tomorrow with the final communiqué.

Omani newspapers said that the declaration will be submitted to responsible committees at the summit for approval.

The declaration focuses on cultural, educational, social affairs, information and environmental aspects which underline the concerns of the leaders of the GCC for the dignity of the human being, the paper said.

The paper said in another despatch that Omani state minister for foreign affairs will leave at the end of the summit to Paris heading the Arab group for the Euro-Arab meeting.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

LIBERTY means responsibility. That is why most men dread it — George Bernard Shaw, Irish-born writer (1856-1950).

Little changed in life for blacks

CAPE TOWN: (Reuters) F. W. De Klerk has changed the face of white politics during his first 100 days as president, but life is little changed for blacks in the shantytowns that fringe South Africa's white cities.

Beach apartheid is gone, dissidents have marched against apartheid without police interference, the first unsegregated suburbs have been opened and jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela has met De Klerk in his 300-year-old Tuynhuys office.

De Klerk has visited the Ivory Coast and Mozambique in his first hundred days, which he marks on Thursday. He has talked to anti-apartheid leaders including Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Reformed Churches leader Allan Boesak.

Fewer than two dozen of the 300,000 people detained without charge since 1986 remain in prison and speculation is rife that Mandela, the 71-year-old African National Congress (ANC) chief, could be home within weeks.

But blacks in the squalid shack settlement of Crossroads, near Cape Town, still accuse police of backing right-wing gang lords in a deadly battle for political control of their slum. Soldiers still patrol the black townships with almost unlimited state of emergency powers of search and arrest.

And life in the ravaged townships of Natal province, where more than 2,000 people have died fighting over tactics to confront apartheid, is a grim reminder of the poverty and hardship that face most of South Africa's 26 million voteless blacks.

Diplomats and political analysts said this week that De Klerk has changed the mood of parliamentary politics since he was elected president on September 14, injecting a sense of optimism after years of virtual stalemate.

But he has still to deliver on his promise to begin talking to popular black leaders on giving blacks, who outnumber whites by five to one, a share in the running of the country.

"He has been more effective in climate building... and he has taken tougher decisions than I had expected of him," said white parliamentarian and former opposition leader Colin Eglin.

He said De Klerk had created conditions for a political breakthrough, but warned that the 53-year-old former lawyer would have to act quickly in the 1990s to maintain the momentum.

"He is going to have to map out a course that is much better defined than the outline we have now. Some sort of a start on serious negotiations is going to have to be made in the first three months of the year," he said in an interview.

Leaders of the main black opposition groups are generally dismissive of De Klerk's opening moves, but some admit privately that he has surprised them.

"Obviously, we are having to react to the momentum this man is generating. He is getting a lot of sympathy from Western governments and we have to make sure they keep a proper perspective," said one Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) organiser.

"De Klerk has not done anything to surprise or impress us. All his promises are being played out against a background of continuing repression," United Democratic Front activist Cheryl Carolus told Reuters.

She said his decision to reverse a 40-year tradition and throw all the country's beaches open to all races was forced on him by activists in a nationwide campaign of apartheid defiance.

She said blacks would begin to pay attention if De Klerk freed Mandela, ended the 30-year exile of his outlawed ANC and lifted a three-year-old state of emergency.

"Then we might be interested to hear what else he has to say," Carolus said.

UDF Secretary-General Popo Molefe, freed last week from Robben Island prison, said De Klerk was clearly more sensitive and sophisticated than his predecessor, P. W. Botha.

He said blacks would respond with flexibility, but he added: "We will not be flexible about our birthright, which is full participation in governing our country."

The UDF and the MDM claim an overlapping membership of over 2.5 million people who oppose apartheid and support the aims, if not the guerrilla methods, of the ANC.

De Klerk gets generally high marks from Western diplomats, though some European representatives are slightly cooler than British and American diplomats.

"We have been pleasantly surprised by the pace he has set, but of course the changes he has announced so far are not nearly enough," one European diplomat told Reuters.

"He seems to have the courage to do what must be done. This question now is whether he can move fast enough," he said.

A senior National Party (NP) source said De Klerk was a relief after a decade of Botha's increasingly autocratic style and his dangerous reliance on police and the army to enforce unpopular government policies.

De Klerk ousted Botha in a series of unusually public battles between January, when Botha suffered a mild stroke, and August 15, when he announced his resignation in a bitter television address to the nation.

De Klerk took over immediately as caretaker president, but began to make changes only after an electoral college of white parliamentarians confirmed his appointment in September.

Diplomats and NP sources said De Klerk's most important move so far was to dismantle the security structure that gave police and the army a key role in deciding government policy.

"All the right-leaning people who might have objected to De Klerk have left the party," one NP source said. "Everybody else is aware that drastic action has to be taken to secure the white man's future in South Africa."

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

An air of confidence pervades

EEC to remove all barriers

ONLY last September Jacques Delors, the determined and single-minded president of the European Commission in Brussels, said that the single market is based on an agreement to remove all internal, physical, fiscal and technical barriers.

An air of confidence pervaded the European Economic Community that the new Europe, as envisioned by its wise godfather, Jean Monnet, was not only on the right track, but would also fill, as he once put it, "a vacuum on either side of which are two great dynamic forces of communism and American capitalism."

But when the Berlin Wall, that artificial protection of the East European Soviet empire, suddenly disintegrated, new complexities injected themselves into the process of European integration. The main reason was that as soon as East Germans could freely circulate into West Germany, the last, and until then the most rigidly controlled communist ally, collapsed and with it the whole strategic structure of the Warsaw Pact.

Inevitably, the next logical question, that was asked by everybody, was whether these developments heralded the unification of Germany. West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl started the controversy when he raised publicly, the "German question," by proclaiming: "We're, and will remain, one nation and we belong together, step by step we must find the way to our common future."

For most Germans this was too vague a declaration of faith in a new Germany and to the members of the Atlantic alliance and the Warsaw Pact it was a shocking, almost frightening, statement. He then followed it up with the ten-point programme for the unification of Germany that satisfied his critics but was troubling to his Western allies, who had not been consulted. He had catapulted an issue into the European scene that was still anathema to most Europeans.

More than ever was the need for anchoring West Germany in the West and making sure that it would not be pulled by the unification issue to the East. The European allies until then had felt confident that they were in charge of their own destiny, but now they were wondering how to preserve the European Economic Community and West Germany safely ensconced in it. The European public, as it began to contemplate the idea of a united Germany turned apprehensive and this and the prospect of a unified Germany alarmed the European Commission's leadership. Most alarmed, however, were the Soviets to whom East Germany was the protection to their Europe.

Although Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia declared that they would remain members of the Warsaw Pact, the declaration had little meaning because at the same time they asked the Soviet Union to withdraw troops from their territories. It probably won't take long and the East Germans will make similar suggestions. What is becoming increasingly obvious is that the Soviet Union is rapidly losing influence in Europe. What remains is primarily the stature and leadership of Gorbachev. It is his decisions, his extraordinary courage and willingness to cut through the resistance he is facing within his own government, that have established him as the outstanding leader of the last two years.

There is no doubt that President Bush was enormously impressed by him, and he makes it clear in private conversation that he is anxious to do whatever he can to make it easier for him to hold on to his seat of power. The President finds it difficult after the Malta meeting to guess how secure Gorbachev is; the Russian leader certainly seemed confident and self-assured, but he admitted that he was running into difficulties getting his programme accepted.



Jacques Delors

One of Gorbachev's problems is that his future does not depend on his international successes, but on progress on the home front. When I was in the Soviet Union in October, the economists in charge of the economic programme feared that in 1990 the food situation would further deteriorate and that it may take at least two more years for improvements to become visible. And two years, for people who have become very impatient, is a long time.

One of Gorbachev's advantages is that so far no serious leader of the opposition has emerged, nobody who aspires at that role or who has the kind of qualities to deal effectively with the current crisis, nobody who has as yet proposed a more promising approach to it.

Who would have guessed even a year ago that the American official, summing up the situation after the Malta conference, would say that he would be surprised if the world would see differences between the two statesmen, Gorbachev and Bush, that "go beyond matters of emphasis." Bush, after his encounter with the Soviet leader, is a changed man. He is much more confident, much more relaxed, much more secure in his own judgement. He is also quite willing to go against the advice of his aides who would baffle him with the complexities of the situation.

There is no doubt that Bush, and above all Gorbachev, are well aware that their power is declining, especially that of the Soviet Union and that the influence of the European Economic Community and that of West Germany is rising. It is for these reasons that the Bush administration has decided to assert American leadership in Europe before the situation there gets out of hand. It is particularly worried that the possibility of sudden German unification that would be unsettling to the European Economic Community and, indeed, to American policy-makers and serious delays in the consolidation of the European Commission with France anxious to speed it up and the British government seeking a more moderate pace.

Baghdad gains technological edge

Iraq warns Israel against sabotage

NICOSIA, (AP): Iraq has warned Israel against trying to sabotage Iraq's biggest military projects, the Condor 2 ballistic missile.

Israeli leaders have made clear that Iraq's missile drive, combined with its arsenal of chemical weapons and reported efforts to develop nuclear weapons, pose a serious danger to the Jewish state. Iraq is one of the most implacable enemies of Israel, which has long held a technological edge over its Arab opponents.

There has been widespread speculation that Israel could try to sabotage the Condor project. Iraq has made repeated, public warnings to Israel not to do so.

In 1981, the Israelis, fearing Iraq was developing a military nuclear potential at a French-built reactor near Baghdad, knocked it out in a long-range fighter-bomber raid.

Some analysts suspect that the Israelis have already taken actions to sabotage the Condor project.

Diplomats in Baghdad have confirmed reports that an explosion in August rocked an Iraqi military complex at Al-Iskandariyah, killing hundreds of workers. Iraq's version of the explosion was that 19 people were killed in a fuel blast in south Baghdad.

There has been speculation that the complex is a research and test centre linked to the Condor project, and the Western military source said many believe the Israelis were behind the blast. But it is not clear whether the blast impeded the missile programme.

The Iraqis claim that Israel's Mossad secret service has assassinated several key experts associated with Condor.

Saudi Arabia, another opponent of Israel, disclosed last year that it had obtained Chinese-built CSS-2 ballistic missiles with a range of 1,600 miles (2,600 km).

Western intelligence sources say there are at least 10 CSS-2s in silos in the AS-Sulayli region south-west of Riyadh, the Saudi capital. Other reports say

Secretary of State Baker, in his speech in Berlin, advocated that Nato assume much more important political responsibilities than it now has become. He is the organisation the United States is a member of. He is concerned that the US might lose its influence on European decisions as the European Economic Community gains in power. But, I understand that the United States would also want to create a "special relationship" with the EEC to strengthen its link with Brussels to make sure that the EEC will not become an inward looking trading area.

The Nato proposal has been welcomed by the European members of Nato, but the French, in initial contacts with the US, had expressed reservations about the idea of a "special relationship" with the EEC. France wants it to become a power in its own right, especially in view of the development in Eastern Europe that could weaken the EEC if West Germany decided on German unification and making itself the centre of European policy-making. The US has been in favour of a united Germany, and still is, but the burning issue, now that it is becoming a serious possibility, is how to delay it.

There is a realisation though that a quick and sudden unification of Germany would harm Europe's peace of mind and cause political conflicts that could get out of hand. Much will depend on whether Chancellor Kohl can be prevailed on not to press for unification and the East German populace from forcing it by simply overruling the dividing line. However crazy it sounds, there is now a good deal of talk among policy-makers of achieving unification and yet keep the two Germanys divided by letting West Germany join the Warsaw Pact and East Germany the Nato alliance. It implies of course the demilitarisation of the two alliances and their bringing the two Germanys as close together as is politically desirable.

There is also a new sense in Washington that the improved understanding between Washington and Moscow is having a calming effect on the rest of the world. It may not be obvious in the Middle East where internecine wars keep the area in turmoil, but at least, it will not expand and drag in the two great powers.

Gorbachev has made it clear at the Malta conference that he is willing to consult closely with the United States in order to avoid any serious misunderstandings.

On the contrary, the two are now consulting much more closely about the situation in the Middle East than ever before. The Soviet Union is virtually opening the gates to Jewish emigration to Israel — more than 40,000 have been given exit visas this year — and most of them have to go to Israel, now that the United States is cutting down on its entry visas. The United States is more even-handedly searching for a breakthrough, primarily through the good offices of the Egyptian government, leading to local elections in the West Bank and Gaza, but so far the prospects do not look promising. Nevertheless, American officials remain unusually hopeful that a solution will be found, although the deadlock between Israel and the PLO seems as persistent as ever.

What is new is that the Soviet Union is not anymore as eager to exploit the deadlock, that, in fact, it is taking a more constructive and less one-sided position that it has in the past. It is greatly welcomed in Washington because the Middle East remains the most volatile area in the world. Even the risks that the two super-powers could be sucked into local hostilities have considerably diminished, in fact, there is an understanding between the two to consult with each other in case of a crisis that could push them onto opposite sides.

New challenge for Gulf states

MUSCAT, (Reuters): Oil discoveries and the promise of unity between North and South Yemen pose a new challenge for Gulf Arab leaders holding their annual summit in Muscat this week.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman have in the past generally been able to ignore the poverty-stricken North and isolationist South when assessing regional or international strategies.

But the six countries, who formed the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) in 1981, now face the reality of a potentially wealthy, populous nation emerging to claim a voice in regional councils and possibly within their oil deliberations, regional political analysts say.

At the current summit, the Gulf leaders are unlikely to do more than express official welcome for unity between North and South Yemen. They are preoccupied trying to resolve differences hindering a unified economic strategy and to find a balanced approach to the stalemate in Iran-Iraq talks.

But in the longer term a unified Yemen with around eight million people, proven oil, a flow of discoveries being reported, and control of the most fertile area of land on the Arabian peninsula will be able to demand consideration.

Bilateral relations, too, will have to come under review. South Yemen has for years feuded with neighbouring Oman. And Aden's Foreign Minister Abdul-Aziz Al Dali this month confirmed reports of border clashes last July with Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia has always paid close attention to Yemeni politics.

Riyadh and Aden normalised relations in 1976, saying then it would "guarantee the security and stability of the Arabian peninsula and to serve the interests of the Arab nations while excluding foreign intervention."

Prospects of a united Yemen put a new twist on these words.

"This is something the GCC does not yet have a unified position on," said one political analyst following the annual summit.

Underlining the changing picture, a joint Yemen delegation flew into Oman last week to brief GCC officials on the form and intentions of a unified state.

"The only question is whether the GCC ultimately invites the Yemenis in," said a Gulf-based Western diplomat.

The situation was complicated by North Yemen's decision this year in the setting up of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), linking it with Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq.

Quote me

"I have been working for the Hezbe-Islami since 1980. I cannot disclose what I did for them, but I did a lot." — Pacha Gul Wafar, a former Afghan minister said.

"THE government will cooperate with parliament to uncover various cases of financial corruption, bribery or embezzlement." — J. R. Madar Baidar said during a cabinet meeting.

"I STATE with full responsibility that this totally irresponsible leafletting action is trying to provoke panic and fear among the population and malice against the Czechoslovak people's army. The army supports the process of revival and democratisation in our country." — Czechoslovakia's Defence Ministry spokesman said.

"IT is the government's opinion that there is no alternative... but to elect Václav Havel... with the provision that this period is limited by the time a federal assembly based on free elections meets and elects a new president." — Czechoslovakia's Prime Minister Marian Calfa said.

"IT would be wrong for the Soviet Union to give up state planning out of hand and plunge headlong into the stormy waters of a market economy." — Soviet first Deputy Premier Yuri Maslyukov told reporters at the Grand Palace of Congresses in the Kremlin.

"WE don't know if there is a tie, but there are a number of circumstances. We're not assigning a link between the motive in Birmingham and the motive in Savannah. If it is tied, the motive is not a clear one to us at this juncture." — FBI special agent William Hinshaw said about the Atlanta bombings.

"Obviously, we are having to react to the momentum this man is generating. He is getting a lot of sympathy from Western governments and we have to make sure they keep a proper perspective." — A Mass Democratic Movement (MDM) organiser on reforms in South Africa under De Klerk.

"The sovereignty of the Palestinian people does not contradict that of the Jewish people and does not jeopardise their security. It is not the Palestinians who are suffering now, but the Israelis also. It must come to us and for the benefit of both parties." — An Israeli Arab Roman Catholic leader.

"I fear that I cannot support the government this evening. I hope we can find an alternative which we are going to be able to look back on with a little less shame than our present policy." — A British MP on the Conservative government's policy of compulsory repatriation of Vietnamese boat people from Hong Kong.

"I am against terrorism. I am in favour of Salman Rushdie being punished, but not by me. He should be punished by Islamic law and Islamic courts." — An Iranian disabled who was released after questioning in England.

"A police lady was very nice. But then a superintendent was very bad. He told me: 'You are a terrorist.' I said how could I be a terrorist? I am a disabled man. They said I could be a mastermind selling others how to make bombs." — Javad Mousavi, a disabled Iranian, on his ordeal under British police interrogation for terrorism.

"Ceausescu is a madman, his wife, thirsty for power, is also mad and his son is an idiot and it's these three people who are being allowed to freely torture 23 million people." — Romanian playwright Eugene Ionesco.

"He is going to have to map out a course that's much better defined than the outline we have now. Some sort of a start on serious negotiations is going to have to be made in the first three months of the year." — A South African white parliamentarian on the pace of reforms by De Klerk.

"Then other people will work it out. Then, it will not be Ryzhikov going to the rostrum, but somebody else. I am responsible for my programme. I believe in it, and I will never deny anything that is signed by me. If I ever feel fear, then there is no place for me in the government." — Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhikov said.

"There are people in both East Germany and Bulgaria who would uphold the system, who would side with Moscow and work out some sort of a compromise. Not in Romania." — Ion Ratiu, president of the world union of free Romanians wrote in London Times newspaper.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1620 — Pilgrims go ashore from ship Mayflower at what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts, in United States.
- 1747 — Convention of St. Petersburg between Britain, Holland and Russia is signed.
- 1832 — Egyptian forces rout Turkish Army at battle of Konieh.
- 1851 — French plebiscite supports new constitution drawn up by Louis Napoleon.
- 1898 — Radium is discovered by scientists Pierre and Marie Curie.
- 1921 — Russia and Turkey form alliance.
- 1934 — Bolivia's President Daniel Salamanca is overthrown in military coup.
- 1942 — British 8th Army reoccupies Benghazi in Africa in World War II.
- 1953 — Iran's former Premier Mohammed Mosaddegh is sentenced to three years in prison for trying to lead revolt against the Shah.
- 1960 — Saudi Arabia's Premier Amir Faisal resigns, and King Saud takes over government.
- 1961 — Moise Tshombe agrees to end secession of Katanga.
- 1967 — Louis Washkansky, first man to undergo heart transplant, dies in Cape Town, South Africa, 18 days after the surgery.
- 1971 — Kurt Waldheim, Austrian diplomat, is chosen secretary-general of United Nations.
- 1972 — East and West Germany formally sign treaty ending more than two decades of official enmity.
- 1975 — Terrorists raid meeting of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Vienna, Austria. Eleven delegates and others are taken hostage, and two guards are killed.
- 1988 — Sudan government confirms it aborted coup attempt previous week and arrested participants in plot.

TUNIS, (Reuters): Beyond trade and technology, Palestine and petrochemicals, Arab and European foreign ministers want the Euro-Arab dialogue which opens in Paris on Thursday to be the visible symbol of an enduring relationship.

President Francois Mitterrand of France has invited the 34 ministers — 12 from the European Economic Community and 22 from the Arab League states — to Paris to revive a process which had lost its way in bureaucratic details and political misunderstandings.

When the partners in the dialogue last met in 1983, they failed to produce a joint declaration because of a perennial imbalance between political demands by the Arabs and the less coherent position of the Europeans, diplomats said.

"The French are picking up the whole process and relaunching it through this grand meeting... it's an important symbolic chance to affirm the strength of the relationship," said a European ambassador in Tunis, the Arab League headquarters.

"Everyone will say what's on his mind. We don't expect any concrete results. But the meeting will make it possible to give a psychological boost to a

dialogue which had sunk into routine and was doing off dangerously," Hamadi Essid, the Arab League representative in Paris, told Reuters.

"It's the spirit that counts most... but it will definitely be a first step towards more fruitful co-operation in the future," said an Arab ambassador.

The Arab League has been pressing the Europeans for a new session of the dialogue since at least 1986 but attempts to draft a joint statement in advance continued to pose problems.

League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, a keen advocate of the dialogue, brought it up again when he saw Mitterrand in October and a few days later the French President took other EEC members by surprise by announcing the meeting for December.

Diplomats said Mitterrand, partly for reasons of national prestige, wanted to ensure the dialogue resumed before France hands over the EEC presidency to Ireland on January 1.

Only Libya and Syria objected to the idea because of the diplomatic sanctions which the EEC imposed on them in 1986 for their alleged role in acts of violence.

Libya at first said it would boycott any Arab state

that took part in the meeting. It began to back down after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak had a word with Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi and on Monday it said it would take part.

The French Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday the Syrian and Libyan foreign ministers, Farouq Al Shara and Jaddallah Azzouz Al Talhi, were expected in Paris. Shara was in Tripoli on Tuesday, apparently for last-minute consultations.

Libya and Syria are bound to bring the sanctions up in Paris but will probably fail to make it a central issue. "There's no disposition to make this a Libyan meeting, except on the part of the Libyans," the European ambassador said.

Arab League officials said France's presidency and developments in the Middle East peace process over the past year had helped break the deadlock in the dialogue.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a full Arab League member, is a welcome participant after renouncing terrorism and recognising Israel's right to exist last year. It is sending "Foreign Minister" Farouk Kaddoumi to the meeting.

هنا انت اصل

'Alarmed' Israel threatens to act on Iraqi missile

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 20. (Reuters) Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin voiced alarm today at Iraq's development of a long-range missile capability and said Israel would have to take "the appropriate decision."

Answering parliamentary questions, Rabin gave the first public Israeli response to Baghdad's announcement on Dec 7 of the successful launch of a three-stage space rocket.

"The defence establishment is keeping a close watch on ... developments in Iraq in various technological areas, especially

Iraq's progress in developing medium- and long-range ground-to-ground missiles, its entry into space and the development of non-conventional weapons," he said.

"Our monitoring is aimed at enabling the government to take the appropriate decision in the light of these developments in every sphere of confrontation..." Rabin said.

Western military analysts quoted by a British newspaper said the Iraqi missile did not achieve all its goals.

The analysts quoted by the Guardian on Monday said the missile, named Al Aabid (the worshipper), flew for only 130 seconds and reached an altitude of just 20 km (12 miles).

Israel bombed a nuclear reactor under construction in Baghdad in 1981 because it believed the plant would be used to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Rabin said Iraq had made several major strides in military technology during the 1981-88 Gulf war against Iran.

The government of Iraq has adopted an order of national priorities which

channels enormous resources into research, development and production of the most advanced weapons, which are likely to equip Iraq with a long-range capability," he said.

Foreign experts say Israel has itself developed medium-range missiles which could hit Iraq and possesses a nuclear and chemical weapons capability.

Israeli military censorship bars reporting on these issues by Israel-based journalists.

Rabin said Israel had held talks with friendly states in an effort to block the

transfer of advanced missile technology to Iraq, but these efforts had failed to produce significant results.

Israel sources have said Argentina and Egypt among other states have assisted Iraq's missile programme.

The United States has expressed concern at the missile race in the Middle East. US officials said National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft tried to persuade China this month not to sell M-9 missiles to Syria, Israel's most hostile neighbour.

Envoy defies Beirut orders

Secret contacts on

WASHINGTON, Dec 20. (Kuna): Abdullah Bouhabib, who until last week was Lebanon's ambassador to the United States, has defied a Lebanese government decree calling for his removal and said that he will stay in the job until the constitutional status of the Lebanese government is sorted out.

Bouhabib's decision to defy the orders of the government of President Elias Hrawi has caused a diplomatic storm in Washington, but the Bush administration had made its position clear on the matter.

As far as the State Department is concerned, it recognises only the decisions of the constitutional government of President Hrawi and Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss.

The department said it was informed on Dec 11 that Bouhabib had resigned from his post. The US government said it will now deal only with the second-in-command, Charge d'Affaires Sulaiman Al Racy pending the appointment of a new ambassador.

Among the names mentioned as possible successors to Bouhabib are Johnny Abdo, former head of intelligence (Deuxieme bureau), Lebanon's Ambassador in Rome, Khalil Makkawi, and a few others.

Bouhabib, who is a political appointee and not a career foreign service officer, was named ambassador to the US by former president Amin Gemayel. He was an employee of the World Bank before that although his connections to the right-wing Lebanese Forces were well-known at the time.

However, when Gemayel's term ended in September, 1988, Bouhabib clearly sided with Lebanese army commander Gen Michel Aoun, circulating statements made by Aoun to members of Congress, the media, and to the State Department while ignoring all statements and decisions made by acting premier Al Hoss.

Bouhabib was very actively involved in lobbying congress and had indirectly been behind the formation of a number of rightwing Popular Action Committees (PACS) to lobby the congress.

At one time earlier this year, Hoss sent his own envoy to Washington, Dr Elias Saba, on a temporary mission and he informed the State Department at the time that Bouhabib does not represent his government's views.

According to the latest reports circulating here, Bouhabib has been asked by Aoun to stay on and was offered all the support

Lebanon calls for release of hostages

BEIRUT, Dec 20. (UPI): Lebanon's Information Minister Edmond Rizk appealed yesterday to the captors of foreign hostages to release them so they can spend Christmas with their families.

"I hope that those who are holding the hostages respond to our appeal to free them so they can join their families on Christmas," Rizk said at a news conference at a hotel in Muslim West Beirut.

The minister said the Lebanese government "is planning to co-operate with all concerned and influential parties to secure the release of all hostages."

"The captives' plight is an issue of great concern to the Lebanese government, and we will spare no effort to restore peace and security in Lebanon," he said.

Seventeen Western hostages are believed held by radical Shiite Muslims belonging to the Iranian-financed Hezbollah, or Party of God. They include eight US citizens, three British, two Germans, two Swiss, one Irishman and one Italian.

The mother of Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy who disappeared three years ago while trying to free hostages in Lebanon, appealed to his captors to let her son free in time for Christmas.

and money he needed to continue in his post.

Buhabib has also indicated that he will not hand over all the embassy's bank accounts, which according to some reports are believed to hold over \$3 million which had been transferred in the past for payment of arms purchases to the Lebanese Army. This, however, could not be officially confirmed.

Palestinians have right to form state

China may set up ties with Israel

CAIRO, Dec 20. (Agencies): President Yang Shangkun has said China might form ties with Israel if it changed its policy and contributed to peace efforts in the region.

"We can consider setting up Chinese ties with Israel if it changed its hardline position and contributed to the (Middle East) peace process," Yang was quoted as saying by Egypt's national Middle East news agency.

The Chinese President, on his first official foreign tour since pro-democracy demonstrators were crushed in Beijing last June, arrived on Monday for a four-day visit to Egypt, the only Arab state with diplomatic ties with Israel.

Israel must "abandon its policy of violence and change its intransigent position and start a dialogue with the PLO," he added.

Yang said the Palestinian people have a right to form an independent state but stressed that China also agrees that all states in the region, including Israel, have a right to exist.

Foreign correspondents in Cairo were invited to Yang's news conference but were later asked to leave his residence. He then spoke with three reporters from Egypt's state-run press.

Yang is scheduled to visit Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait after Egypt.

Yang described last June's

pro-democracy movement in his country as "a rebellion against the revolution."

Yang described the events in Beijing's Tiananmen Square as "regrettable" and criticised sanctions imposed against China on account of the bloody events which claimed the lives of pro-democracy Chinese dissidents.

He said the sanctions amounted to "a flagrant interference in China's internal affairs."

Regarding Taiwan, Yang said his country would never allow Taiwan to become independent as it is part of China's territories.

Asked to comment on the June's pro-democracy events, Yang said, "there are attempts made by some to exploit the atmosphere of reform and development to cause confusion and undermine stability, and this is what happened last June at the Tiananmen Square in Beijing in the form of rebellion against the revolution."

"It all began when the students put forward a petition, then violent demonstrations sparked off leading to occupying the Tiananmen Square at the heart of Beijing."

"These regrettable events have negatively affected the Chinese economy and harmed investment and economic open-door policies," Yang said.

"Since the announcement of the openness policy in China, there has been an influx of foreign investments..." he said.

Tight security after Kabul foils coup bid

Hekmatyar hatching another plot

ISLAMABAD, Dec 20. (AP): Afghanistan's ruling communists have increased security around the president's palace in Kabul after discovering a coup plot early this month, Western diplomats said yesterday.

"Rumours" of involvement of high-level figures and of greater numbers arrested are circulating (in Kabul)," said a Western diplomat, who refused to be identified.

Meanwhile, the leader of the powerful rebel group, Hezbi Islami, claimed another, unsuccessful, coup plot was being hatched in Kabul, claiming that he would not elaborate on the details.

"We were working on a plan (to) successfully stage a coup," Hezbi Islami leader, Abdul Wahab Ismail, told a group of non-communist congressmen in Peshawar, Pakistan, on Monday.

Hekmatyar also claimed that his organisation had infiltrated Afghanistan's armed forces.

"We have created several cells within the army and no one knows about the other," he said.

Hekmatyar claimed that a "revolutionary council" would step into the vacuum caused by a successful coup and within six months elections would be held.

Crushed

Afghanistan's official Radio Kabul reported on Dec 5 that government troops had crushed an underground guerrilla network operating in Kabul, arresting 100 people. The radio made no mention of a coup plot, but said those arrested belonged to Hekmatyar's group. Hekmatyar denied they were his men.

More recently, diplomatic sources have said Afghanistan's State Security Minister Ayubi claimed to have jailed 127 people in connection with the alleged involvement of government troops, but said he would not elaborate.

He said the alleged plot surfaced, but he said there have been a series of purges within Afghanistan's armed forces. Most of those arrested belonged to the "Khaki" faction of the ruling Communist Party, diplomats said. Afghan President Najib belongs to the rival Parcham faction.

Meanwhile, diplomats said

Najib is reportedly planning a cabinet restructuring to make non-communists more numerous. Of his 34 cabinet ministers, 22 belong to his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The Khalq and Parcham communist factions have been at odds almost since their conception in the 1960s. They only embarked on a truce at the urging of the Soviet Union when it sent more than 100,000 combat troops into Afghanistan in 1979 to crush a burgeoning Muslim insurgency.

Moscow withdrew its troops last February in line with a United Nations-brokered accord, although it has continued to arm its allies in Kabul.

Western diplomatic sources claim that the Kremlin is pumping military and food supplies valued at about \$300 million a month to its allies in Kabul.

Anti-communist rebels today claimed to have blocked the strategic Salang tunnel in northern Afghanistan, as the area remains under cover of heavy snow.



Returns to 'fire'
A civil defence worker carries a crippled Lebanese girl, who arrived in Beirut coming from Paris where she was treated for seven months. The girl was hit by shrapnel that cut her spinal cord during the six months of savage battles between Syrian troops and forces of defiant General Michel Aoun. (Reuters wirephoto)

US confirms Israeli move

Iran denies oil deal

Israel desperate

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 20. (Reuters) Iran denied yesterday that it had sold oil to Israel in a deal news reports said was designed to facilitate the freedom of hostages or Israeli prisoners of war in Lebanon.

The Iranian mission to the United Nations said in a statement that such reports were "baseless" and an attempt to distort "the revolutionary image of the Islamic republic of Iran amongst the Muslim nations throughout the world."

But the US State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters that Israel had volunteered the information about the oil deal "a month ago, after the fact."

The NBC television network, quoting US and American intelligence sources, reported on Monday that Israel had paid \$36 million for two million barrels of Iranian oil offloaded in Eilat in mid-November.

The report said the purchase was part of a bid to win freedom for Israeli prisoners of war and possibly Western hostages held in Lebanon and that Washington had given its blessing to the deal.

Tutwiler denied this, saying: "Israel informed us a month ago after the fact that it had concluded a deal with Iran for purchase of Iranian oil. Foreign countries do not seek US approval for oil purchases from a third country."

According to some sources, Israel had only volunteered the information after US intelligence uncovered the deal. But Tutwiler denied this, saying the Israeli disclosure had not been prompted by the United States.

Calling Israel the "Zionist entity" and the "regime occupying Palestine," Iran said it had adopted every conceivable measure to prevent any action which directly or indirectly would assist the Jewish state.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Israel had been forced to take unusual measures to try to free its captive soldiers and find out what happened to those missing in action because Palestinian and Shiite groups have not accounted for them.

Big five briefed: Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Tuesday briefed the five members of the Security Council on his two rounds of talks last week with the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq. (Kuna)

Nigerian arrested at Cairo: Egyptian police on Tuesday arrested a Nigerian transit passenger at Cairo airport with 10 kilos (22 pounds) of heroin, the Middle East News Agency (Mena) said. (Reuters)

Hussein's daughter gets engaged: Jordan's Royal Court announced on Tuesday the engagement of King Hussein's daughter Princess Ayshe to fellow Jordanian Zeid Joum'a. (Reuters)

17 rebels killed: Sudanese army troops killed 17 southern rebels during raids on nine camps belonging to the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the armed forces daily reported on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Tass in Moscow: Syrian Defence Minister General Mustafa Tlass is currently in the Soviet Union heading a high ranking military delegation, well informed diplomatic sources said on Wednesday. (Kuna)

Arafat-Hussein talks focus Baker plan

AMMAN, Dec 20. (Agencies): Palestinian President Yasser Arafat last night conferred here with Jordanian monarch King Hussein on the latest developments of the Palestinian question.

The meeting between the two leaders tackled the current situation in the Arab region especially efforts exerted to achieve Palestinian people's legitimate rights to enable them establish their independent state on their homeland.

Both leaders held talks on US Secretary of State James Baker's proposal for direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Interior Minister Salem Massadeh and other cabinet members welcomed Arafat at the airport. They all drove to the guest palace where King Hussein joined them for a first round of talks.

Arafat's two-day visit, the first since Baker offered the plan in October, coincided with his Badran's announcement that his

government was lifting martial law imposed 22 years after Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan in the 1967 war.

Arafat's advisor Bassam Abu Sharif told the Associated Press that the talks with Hussein and Badran will focus on "concentrated efforts to open a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue" in Cairo.

Abu Sharif said the discussions will also deal with "Israeli dovishness which tries to dampen and control all efforts for a peaceful political solution to the Palestinian problem."

Arafat met today with chairman and members of Palestine National Council in Jordan in the presence of a number of PLO's Executive Committee members.

Arafat briefed the council's members and the Palestinian personalities on the latest developments of the Palestinian question and PLO's position towards initiatives to solve the Palestinian cause.

Jews can receive pigs' organ

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 20. (Reuters): Jewish law bars the faithful from eating pork but even the most devout Jew can receive an organ transplant from a pig, an Israeli rabbi said today.

Rabbi Yona Metzger, commenting on Swedish medical research into transplanting pigs' organs into humans, told Israel Radio that leading rabbis agreed that saving or prolonging human life took precedent over all other religious precepts.

"Human life stand at the top of the order of priorities according to Halacha (Jewish religious law) and ... although Jews are forbidden to eat pork, it is certainly permitted to use a pig's organs to save a human life," he said.

In a special broadcast to highlight the shortage of donors for a life-saving transplant surgery, the radio quoted a participant at a recent Stockholm medical conference saying that pigs' hearts could beat in human breasts by the year 2000.

Christmas to be day of mourning in honour of uprising martyrs

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, Dec 20. (Agencies): Nationalist leaders in Bethlehem said today Christmas would be a day of mourning in honour of the hundreds of Palestinians killed in the two-year-old uprising against Israel.

A letter signed by the clandestine unified national leadership in the Israeli-occupied town said for the third Christmas of the uprising residents of Jesus' traditional birthplace would demonstrate no joy.

"We will show the world looking to our country on the third Christmas of our uprising... that the day of Christmas

will be a day of mourning for the souls of our martyrs," the leaflet said.

It appealed to the faithful to pray for the dead, to receive spiritual leaders in churches and not in the streets, to visit families of the dead, wounded and detained, and to refrain from decorating shops.

Israel is expected to add roadblocks and troops to the town's main streets and Manger Square over the holiday as it has done in previous years.

Christmas mass at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity.

In a news release, the spiritual leader of Catholics in Israel, the occupied territories and Jordan called for Palestinian self-rule and peace talks with Israel as the only way to bring security to both sides.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah asked Israelis and Arabs to prepare themselves for reconciliation and love towards one another, "on Christmas."

Nearly 600 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis in the uprising, 158 have been killed by fellow Arabs on suspicion

of collaborating with Israel and 44 Jews have also died.

Traditional English versions of the Bible say the Christ child was born to Mary in a stable at Bethlehem "because there was no room for them in the inn."

The stable, he adds, was probably not the cozy wooden structure of Christmas card fame but a shepherd's cave cut into limestone.

And the Manger, or feeding trough, that the baby was laid in nearly 2,000 years ago was not hewn from wood but built of stone, he says.

Fleming told a pre-Christmas news conference sponsored by Israel's Tourism Ministry that he is not challenging doctrine but interpretation.

"The message is to try to help Christians to understand the simplicity of Christ's birth," he said.

INTERNATIONAL

Unrest spreads across Romania

(Continued from Page 1)

parliamentarian Mihai Munteanu.

None of the reports could be independently verified.

Ceausescu, the longest-serving Soviet bloc ruler, has forced hardships and rationing on his 23 million citizens, who are becoming increasingly desperate with his harsh rule.

The state news agency Agerpres, reporting his return from Iran, said Ceausescu was welcomed home by his wife Elena, the No. 2 in the country, who usually travels with her husband but remained home this time.

Timisoara remained inaccessible to foreign travellers and telephone callers today, according to Hungarians who tried to call there and Yugoslav border guards monitoring transit traffic.

Tanjug said from Bucharest that foreign reporters who tried to reach the town were turned back 30 miles (50 kilometres) away from the city of about 350,000 people.

In Bucharest, a spokesman for the US embassy reported "an increasing police and military presence in the streets of Bucharest. The streets are calm and quiet."

The official Soviet news agency Tass reported today that guards in factories and offices have been doubled.

In Brasov, helicopters were patrolling overhead and security was beefed up in the streets, said a Hungarian activist who called Bucharest this morning.

Helmut Wolf, the Austrian relief worker who returned from the city today, told Austrian Radio the centre of Timisoara was in ruins and that he saw "a whole line of houses aflame" in the downtown city centre.

The world today condemned Romania for its violent suppression of anti-government demonstrators, with the severest criticism from East European countries themselves striving for democracy.

As reports trickled across Romania's sealed borders that up to 4,000 people might have been slaughtered in the town of Timisoara and elsewhere and that the country was virtually under martial law, criticism focused on Ceausescu.

Killing

"There can be no excuse for such wholesale killing and no justification under any application of international law," US delegate John Maresca told a European Security Conference in Vienna.

"President Ceausescu now owes the international community an abject apology for this offence towards the human race."

Earlier, the governing board of East Germany's Communist Party denounced Romanian authorities for the "use of military or other force against demonstrators demanding their legitimate human rights."

The actions of the Romanian security forces contradicted the ideals and principles of democratic socialism, the party said, urging that repression cease immediately.

"From our own bitter experience we know that the democratic renewal of socialism is inevitable," said the party, in the throes of democratic transformation after a popular reform movement toppled the hardline party elite last month.

The party also urged the East German council of state to consider stripping Ceausescu of the order of Karl Marx, East Germany's highest honour.

Yugoslavia's Communist Party went further, breaking off ties with its Romanian counterpart.

In Czechoslovakia, another state until recently guilty of violent repression, President-in-waiting Vaclav Havel told a mass rally he deplored reports of the killings.

"If the federal assembly elects me as President... I would cancel the reception in honour of my election — some 350,000 crowns (\$35,000) — and the money will be spent on the victims of the massacre in Romania," Havel said.

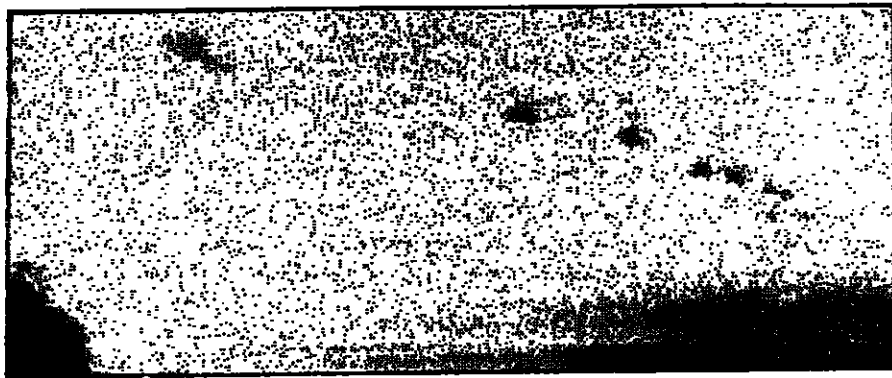
The Warsaw Parliament yesterday accused Romania of "exceptional brutality" and expressed Polish Solidarity with "the victims of terror."

Members stood in silence in memory of the dead in Timisoara and protested "against the violation of fundamental human rights in Romania." Members passed a resolution.

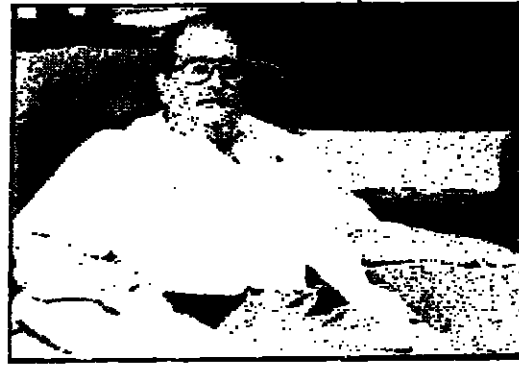
Unrest in Timisoara began on Friday when authorities tried to evict a reformist priest from his church. A crowd of hundreds that gathered to protect him quickly swelled to thousands before police tried to disperse it forcibly.



Smoke rises from an area of the Panamanian Defence Force headquarters. (Reuter wirephoto)



US helicopters fly over Panama. (Reuter wirephoto)



Guillermo Endara was sworn in as leader of Panama one hour before US attacks.



Two US soldiers take aim around a corner in Panama City in an area close to the Legislative Assembly. (Reuter wirephoto)

'Get Noriega!' - But he gets away

(Continued from Page 1)

say Noriega was "well and in a safe place."

"Don't anyone give up your positions. In the provinces, prepare to resist. The attacks are going to continue when they find we are not going to cede," he said.

In New York, the UN Security Council met privately to consider Nicaragua's request for an emergency session to discuss the situation.

The Organisation of American States' permanent council also was to meet today in Washington at the request of Noriega's envoy.

Wednesday's assault began about midnight (0500 GMT) as forces dispatched from US bases attacked Panamanian military headquarters, which witnesses in nearby apartments said was virtually destroyed two hours later.

By dawn a pall of smoke covered the capital. Fighting continued in old Panama and San Miguelito, two districts of the capital where Noriega's paramilitary units are strongest.

During today's fighting, Panamanian forces attacked the US embassy, causing slight damage, and the area was secured by US military personnel and vehicles, a US embassy spokesman said on condition of not being identified.

Some 7,000 US troops from bases in the United States were airlifted yesterday to augment the more than 12,000 troops already based in Panama, Powell said. Another 2,500 would be sent, he said. The action was codenamed "Operation Just Cause," Powell said.

Dr Marcel Pena of Santo Tomas Hospital said wounded had been coming in all night and the number increased at daylight.

Reaction

Noriega's whereabouts were unknown and Maj. Edgardo Lopez, head of the Panamanian defence forces' press office, said Noriega had received warning of the attack.

"General Noriega is in another part of the country and is on top of the situation," Lopez said in an interview with a Mexican television network.

Panama's ambassador to Israel, Rodolfo Ulises Castellon, told Israel Radio: "I know for sure that he is in a safe place and they won't get him, no way. I don't think that General Noriega will go to exile."

Powell said: "We'll chase him and we'll find him."

Fighting also was reported about seven miles (11 kilometres) east of Panama's military headquarters, where a Panamanian cavalry unit is based; at Panamanian bases at Fort Cimarron, 20 miles (32 kilometres) to the southwest; at Colon, 50 miles (80 kilometres) to the north; and at a Panamanian military base in the centre of David, 200 miles (320 kilometres) west of Panama City.

The Soviet Union today swiftly condemned the US military action in Panama, while British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hailed the

Panama action to save US citizens

WASHINGTON, Dec 20, (UPI): Here is the text of US President George Bush's 7:30 am address to the nation on his actions concerning Panama.

"Fellow citizens, last night I ordered US military forces to Panama. No President takes such action lightly. This morning, I want to tell you what I did and why I did it."

For nearly two years, the United States, the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean have worked together to resolve the crisis in Panama.

The goals of the United States are to safeguard the lives of Americans, defend democracy in Panama, to combat drug trafficking and to protect the integrity of the Panama Canal treaty.

Many attempts have been made to resolve this crisis through diplomacy and negotiations. All were rejected by the dictator of Panama, General Manuel Noriega, an indicted drug trafficker.

Last Friday, Noriega declared his military dictatorship to be in a state of war with the United States and publicly threatened the lives of Americans in Panama.

The very next day, forces under his command shot and killed an unarmed American serviceman, wounded another, arrested and brutally beat a third serviceman and then brutally interrogated his wife, threatening her with sexual abuse.

That was enough.

General Noriega's reckless threats against Americans in Panama created an imminent danger to the 35,000 American citizens and their families who live in Panama.

As President, I had no higher obligation than to safeguard the lives of American citizens and that is why I directed our armed forces to protect the lives of American citizens in Panama and to bring General Noriega to justice in the United States.

I contacted the bipartisan leadership in Congress last night and informed them of this decision and after taking this action, I also talked to leaders in Latin America, the Caribbean and those of other US allies.

At this moment, US forces, including forces deployed from the United States last night, are engaged in action in Panama. The United States intends to withdraw the forces newly deployed to Panama as quickly as possible.

Our forces have conducted themselves courageously and selflessly, and as commander in chief, I salute every one of them and thank them on behalf of the United States.

Tragically, some Americans have lost their lives in defence of their fellow citizens, in defence of democracy and my heart goes out to their families. We also regret the loss of innocent Panamanians.

The brave Panamanians elected by the people of Panama in elections last May, President Guillermo Endara and Vice Presidents Calderon and Ford have assumed the rightful leadership of their country.

You remember these horrible pictures of newly elected Vice President Ford, covered head to toe with blood, beaten by so-called dignity battalions.

At 7 am (0700 GMT) to tell her the military action was under way. They spoke for 10 minutes and Bush said she was the first foreign leader he called.

"I said we would fully support him... I believe this is what friends are for to give support at this time. It was a courageous decision," said Mrs Thatcher.

Britain's opposition Labour Party criticised the US action, saying that while Noriega was a "vile and criminal dictator," military intervention was unlikely to secure a stable solution.

"Going in with troops was the easy part. Coming out will be extremely difficult," said Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock.

In Eastern Europe, Yugoslavia said the US action was unacceptable.

"Yugoslavia has always considered as unacceptable any foreign — and especially a military — intervention under any excuse, as it represents a crude violation of sovereignty," a Yugoslav Foreign Ministry statement said.

Canadian External Affairs Minister Joe Clark said that "intervention by force is a dangerous precedent." But he added that Canada had noted the US relied on force as a last resort after failing to resolve the situation in Panama peacefully.



Flashback

Opposition vice presidential candidate Guillermo Ford, in this file picture pleads with a soldier after being beaten following Panamanian presidential elections in May. Ford was sworn in with Endara yesterday to lead a US-backed government. (Reuter wirephoto)

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Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said he hoped the clashes would end soon, but officials said the ministry did not "have enough information to make any comment."

In similar vein, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas said only that France wants "to have the maximum amount of information on the events."

In Madrid, Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordaz said he "deeply lamented" the US action. He said the Spanish government, "which always has been opposed to foreign military intervention, expresses its hope that the Panamanian people can decide its future in freedom."

Short but intense fight

PANAMA CITY, Dec 20, (Agencies): It was an assault that could be viewed from the balconies of Panama City's high-rise apartment houses, the glow of flames and the clouds of smoke billowing up in one part of town while traffic continued normally in other places.

The heaviest fighting of the night in which the United States attacked Panamanian leader Manuel Antonio Noriega's military headquarters lasted between 45 minutes and an hour.

Shortly before 1 am (0600 GMT), when the sound of machinegun fire could be heard echoing across Panama Bay from the headquarters, the groan of airplane engines grew louder and bright red artillery shells arched over the city. It was difficult to tell their targets.

Within 10 minutes, the shells filled the air over the old area of Panama City known as Chorrillo. At about the same time, a bright orange glow appeared at the foot of Ancon Hill, where Noriega's barracks are situated.

The sound of machineguns followed in rapid bursts.

Where usually the bay was lit with the steady soft glow of street and dock lights, now there were the trails of the bright red shells, reflected on the water.

At about 1.30 am (0630 GMT), gunfire could be heard on the other side of Panama City, farther east away from the canal in the vicinity of Paitilla airport, about three miles (five km) from Noriega's headquarters. The fighting did not last long but was intense.

Black smoke was seen rising from near the airport,

illuminated by the lights of the city.

Oddly, traffic appeared normal for a weekday night for at least the first hour and a half of the attack. It only seemed to subside as the fighting continued.

There was little fighting in the city's main business district. It was centred around the old part of town where the fighting was delayed by explosives-laden trucks.

Throughout the long night, machinegun bullets and explosions continued sporadically.

Two hours after the attack began, the area around Noriega's headquarters was bathed in a bright orange glow.

Flames 40 and 50 feet high were visible from two miles (3.5 km) away and bright orange and black smoke illuminated the sky.

Always, the sound of aircraft droned overhead. Early, they were never seen — their navigational lights were turned off.

On the streets below, the occasional pedestrian continued life as if it were normal.

The assault appeared to be over several times but any apparent calm would repeatedly be shattered by another outbreak of gunfire.

Candice Hughes, an AP correspondent who had just checked into the Marriott Hotel when the fighting began reports: the fighting had just broken out in Panama City when a group of men dressed in civilian clothes and armed with assault rifles surrounded the Marriott Hotel and began rounding up guests.

For the next 4-12 hours, the men held us hostage, told us about their comrades who had already fallen in the battle and threatened to kill us.

I will submit this nominee to the Senate for expedited consideration.

I am committed to strengthening our relationship with democratic nations in this hemisphere.

I will continue to seek solutions to the problems in this region and dialogue and multilateral diplomacy.

I took this action only after reaching the conclusion that every other avenue was closed and the lives of American citizens were in grave danger.

I hope the people of Panama will put this dark chapter of dictatorship behind them.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Den Broek said in a radio interview that he sympathised with the US action, adding that the Dutch administration "lacks any legitimacy."

Nicaragua put tanks and troops on alert today and Peru withdrew its US ambassador as most of Latin America condemned the US invasion of Panama.

Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela criticised the United States invasion for its stated purposes to restore democracy and apprehend Panamanian Defence Forces commander, General Manuel Antonio Noriega.

Ceausescu's wife is as iron-fisted as her husband

VIENNA, Dec 20, (Reuter): Elena Ceausescu, wife and confidante of Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu for 24 years of his iron-fisted rule, is in charge of the country while he visits Iran amid violent anti-government protests.

Declared a national heroine on her 70th birthday this year and known to share her husband's Stalinist views, she is frequently eulogised in the official press in a personality cult as adoring as his own.

A prominent member of the ruling Communist Party politburo and a first

deputy prime minister, Elena is effectively the ultra-orthodox leader's number two in party and state.

The hardline president appeared to have few qualms about leaving Romania in his wife's hands despite reports of serious unrest at the weekend in the western city of Timisoara.

Witnesses say hundreds of people were killed by security forces and Yugoslavia's Tanjug agency said unconfirmed reports spoke of a death toll of up to 2,000.

The official news agency Agerpres on Monday published photographs of

Romania's first lady seeing off her husband at Bucharest airport, smiling and dressed in a drab winter coat.

Since then Romania has sealed itself off from the outside world. Its borders are closed and the official media have made no direct reference to the unrest.

Yugoslav and Soviet reports yesterday said Romania was under virtual martial law, with armed soldiers patrolling the streets of the capital, Bucharest.

Western diplomats say Elena's political influence in a leadership including many Ceausescu relatives has

grown in recent years and that Ceausescu may have been grooming her to succeed him.

On state visits abroad she has held talks with government representatives in her own capacity and is understood to wield considerable influence in deciding political appointments.

Born in the village of Petresti on January 7, 1919, Elena was active in Romania's anti-fascist underground movement during World War Two and after training as a chemical engineer rose to head the Romanian Academy of Sciences.

The rhetoric of the Ceausescu cult, which hails her as a "shining symbol of the national spirit," seems increasingly outdated as other East bloc states ditch their unpopular leaders and call for genuine democracy.

Elena has a place in Bucharest's national museum, where her honorary scientific diplomas are displayed alongside decorations the couple received on trips abroad.

Other rooms include "presents from the Romanian people" — marble busts and tapestries depicting Elena in saint-

like poses bedecked with flowers.

Everyday life at the Ceausescu home is cloaked in mystery and privilege while ordinary Romanians queue for basic food and freeze in winter.

In an account of life with the family, a former Romanian intelligence chief described Elena choosing a mink coat and being lavished with diamonds by Nicolae.

"I am not a president's wife. I am the next in line after the Romanian leader. Is that clear?" the author quoted her as saying.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tokyo to allow Saudi Arabia to take part in oil refining, marketing

Saudis must guarantee Japan's right for investment

TOKYO, Dec 20, (Agencies): Japan has agreed in principle to allow Saudi Arabia to participate directly in crude oil refining and marketing in Japan within a span of two to three years in return of certain investment privileges, official sources said here yesterday.

The sources said the Japanese government made as condition for co-operation in this regard that Saudi Arabia must guarantee Japan's right for investment in promoting oil industry in the kingdom.

To achieve bilateral co-operation in this project, the sources added, a joint ministerial meeting would be held in Tokyo next

spring. Japan's energy and natural resources agency was planning to send an envoy to Riyadh next Jan 10 to meet with Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir to prepare for the proposed ministerial meeting.

The sources stated that Nazir is attentive on establishing a governmental company to be in charge of Saudi crude wholesale in Japanese markets where co-operation with Japanese companies resulted in reducing restrictions and increasing consumption.

The Japanese government also wants Saudi Arabia to make a pledge that it would secure the country's (Japan) requirements

of crude in case of any oil crisis in the future and also guarantee facilities for Japanese firms in developing Saudi oil fields.

Meanwhile, oil industry sources here said that Japanese refineries are currently extending help to some of Asian countries through refining of their crude.

Quantities of crude oil coming to Japan from South Korea, Taiwan and other neighbouring Asian states for refining were on constant increase over the past period, the sources said.

Japan had rendered help to neighbouring countries by refining one million kilolitres of crude in 1986, 1.5 million kilolitres in 1988 and the figure is estimated



Hisham Nazir to reach 2.3 million kilolitres this year.

Meanwhile the value of Saudi Arabian non-oil exports totalled \$2.69 billion during the first nine months of 1989, an increase of five per cent over the same period last year.

According to a report by the Public Statistics Department, quoted by the Finance and National Economy Ministry, the kingdom's exports of petrochemical and plastic products fetched \$1.97 billion, an increase of two per cent over the same period a year earlier. Other export commodities earned 718.29 million, up 14 per cent over the same period last year.

It said the total value of the kingdom's re-exports of impor-

ted commodities amounted to about \$395 million in the same period, down 15 per cent over last year.

On trade exchanges between the kingdom and other member states of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC), the report said the kingdom's exports of non-oil national commodities to GCC states amounted to \$428 million in the same period, an increase of 14.7 per cent over last year. The amount of re-exported commodities to GCC states reached \$75.56 million.

The kingdom's total imports from fellow GCC states' national products amounted to \$374.63 million, an increase of 21 per cent

over the same period last year. The kingdom's imports of re-exported foreign commodities during the same period amounted to \$312.41 million, a decrease of 2.3 per cent in comparison with the same period in 1988.

Meanwhile, the economic department of the eastern province's chamber of commerce and industry has finalized a comprehensive economic plan to reactivate non-oil products.

The study, the first of its kind in the kingdom, will classify exports and examine the future expansion of manufacturing industries, agriculture and services, including maintenance, ports and banking.

Move to meet surge in oil demand

Gulf states to boost oil production capacity

DUBAI, Dec 20, (Reuters): Gulf oil states, while curbing output next year under an Opec pact, are pressing ahead with multi-billion dollar plans to raise their production capacity to meet a projected surge in oil demand in 1990.

Oil industry analysts think the Gulf's five big producers, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iran and Iraq, may cut up to one million barrels per day (bpd) in January from their current estimated output of around 16 million bpd.

But the five, which have two-thirds of the world's proven oil reserves, are also pursuing projects which analysts estimate will add at least seven million bpd to their production capacity in the next five to 10 years.

The International Energy Agency, the West's energy watchdog, predicts that the Middle East's share of world oil supplies will rise from 34 per cent in 1985 to about 44 per cent in 1995.

Saudi Arabia, Opec's biggest producer, has launched a 10-year programme costing more than \$15 billion to raise its capacity from an estimated 6.5 million bpd to 10 million.

Abu Dhabi, the UAE's biggest producer, is working on plans to increase onshore capacity from one million bpd to 1.25 million initially and to 1.7 million in the

Norway's output seen rising

OSLO, Dec 20, (Reuters): Norway's oil production will hit record highs in 1990, whether or not the government sticks to a policy of trimming output to help Opec bolster oil prices, a government source said today.

Separately, Oil Minister Ervin Reiten dismissed Norwegian media reports that he was recommending the country's new centre-right government scrap North Sea output curbs, saying he would make up his mind in coming days.

Since 1987, Norway has produced oil at 7.5 per cent less than full capacity, hoping to underpin the market. Norway is Western Europe's second biggest oil producer after Britain and is not a member of Opec.

The government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "Output will rise by around five per cent if we stick to the curbs, and by 12.5 per cent if the production restrictions are abandoned."

The government previously said overall petroleum output would be unchanged next year from 1989. It says current output is around 1.55 million barrels per day, already a record.

Both the business daily Dagens Næringsliv and the independent Bergens Tidende carried uncorroborated reports today that Norway planned to drop its output curbs, which many say are too small to influence world prices.

"This issue is being assessed, but no conclusions have been drawn," Reiten told Reuters. "It can happen tomorrow, on Friday or next week."

The decision might even be taken early next year, he added.

its output to 22 million bpd in the first half of 1990.

Analysts estimate Opec's 13 members are now pumping around 23.5 million bpd and it was not clear how far the agreement would mop excess output from the market if the UAE produced at will.

Analysts predict that the UAE's output will fall by around 300,000 bpd in January from the current 2.3 million, largely due to maintenance work at the Abu Dhabi fields.

"Abu Dhabi's oilfields were stretched too far in the last couple of months. If they do not relax now, they may need more expensive treatment later," one oil industry executive said.

Saudi Arabia, now producing an estimated 5.6 million bpd, received a quota of 5.38 million but some Gulf-based oil industry sources calculate from its export pattern that output may remain at 5.6 million in January.

They also said Saudi Arabia insisted on retaining its 24.46 per cent share of total Opec output and might continue to pump 5.6 million if Opec output remained around 22.5 million bpd.

Iran and Iraq, each allocated 3.14 million bpd, were expected to produce at around their quota levels, the analysts said.

Oil tanker refloated

Canal traffic to resume shortly

SUEZ, Cairo, Dec 20, (AP): Suez Canal specialists succeeded today in refloating a gashed and grounded oil tanker, and traffic in the vital passageway between the East and the West was expected to resume shortly, canal officials said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the 138,536-ton Liberian-registered Lauberhorn was refloated at 2.50 pm (1250 GMT) and that traffic in the Suez Canal would soon be resumed.

The officials said that specialists had succeeded in lightening the load of the Lauberhorn and refloating it during high tide. They said that the vessel was towed to Zenobia area, near Suez which is at the canal's southern tip.

Ezzat Adel, the Suez Canal Authority's director, personally supervised the refloating, the officials said.

Adel was quoted by the Middle East News Agency as saying that traffic in the canal would resume within three hours. But the officials said it

could be as late as midnight (2200 GMT) before some 109 stranded ships started moving.

The Lauberhorn, managed by a New York City company, had just begun its northward passage from Suez when it ran aground in heavy fog just north of the city yesterday morning.

The accident caused a crack in the ship's bow two to three metres long. This led to a minor spill from the 73,000-ton consignment of crude oil that tanker had taken on at an Iranian terminal in the Gulf.

Adel said that specialists had succeeded in cleaning up the oil spill, and had sealed up the crack in the ship. An Abram newspaper had reported today that some 2,000 tons of oil had spilled from the gash, but canal officials said the amount could not be determined.

As soon as the Lauberhorn went aground, the authority rushed five tug boats and other craft to the scene, a few miles (kilometres) north of Suez to refloat the vessel.

Burning tanker leaking oil

MADRID, Spain, Dec 20, (AP): A burning Iranian tanker leaked a 30-mile-long slick of crude oil as it drifted 100 miles off Morocco today but the leakage posed no immediate threat to the coastlines of North Africa or nearby Atlantic Islands, a maritime official said.

Spanish merchant marine spokesman Fernando Cano said a strong westerly wind was blowing the slick toward the central Atlantic and away from the Moroccan coast, northwest of the Spanish Canary Islands archipelago.

The Khark 5 began leaking some of its 270,000-ton cargo of crude oil after an explosion on board yesterday set fire to the vessel in rough seas.

The 35-man Iranian crew of the tanker abandoned ship yesterday and were rescued by the passing Soviet freighter Sarny, which was to arrive in Las Palmas in the Canaries tomorrow.

Cano said Spanish Navy pilots from Las Palmas had flown over the ship today and said it continued to burn.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Dec 20, (Reuters): Demand for resources and quality industrial stocks helped shares close higher. The All-Ordinaries finished 5.8 points up at 1,638.2.

TOKYO: Index-linked buying lifted the Nikkei but in the broader market losers outnumbered winners in active trade. The Nikkei index finished 72.90 points to close at 38,512.00 after dropping 147.08 on Tuesday.

HONG KONG: Shares ended easier in dull trade blamed on the holiday season and lack of fresh corporate news. The Hang Seng index lost 10.93 points to close at 2,868.49.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed mixed as selected buying and bargain-hunting alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times industrial rose 7.71 points to finish at 1,459.89.

BOMBAY: Prices drifted lower on scattered profit-taking as the market ran out of steam after opening firm. FRANKFURT: Prices surged upwards as foreign investors scrambled to increase holdings in the West German market, expected to be one of 1990's top performers. The Reuters 30-share Dax index rose 27.31 to 1,675.01.

LIVERPOOL: The market was firm but volume was low as many institutional investors had closed their books for the year. The All-Share Swiss performance index gained 6.2 to 1,118.7.

PARIS: Prices closed higher, helped by a late wave of buying of Paribas in an otherwise thin and cautious market. The CAC-40 index gained 19.29 to 1,951.31.

US GNP growth quickens

Economy grew at 3.0 pc rate in 3rd quarter

WASHINGTON, Dec 20, (Reuters): The US economy grew at a revised 3.0 per cent annual rate in the third quarter, stronger than previously estimated, the government said today.

Despite the higher gross national product (GNP) growth rate in the July to September period, economists said fourth quarter growth has dropped off dramatically and may actually contract after seven years of uninterrupted expansion.

The Commerce Department, revising its third quarter growth estimate for the second and final time, had initially reported that third quarter GNP had grown at a 2.5 per cent rate. It then revised it to a 2.7 per cent gain before pushing it up once again.

The estimate of GNP exceeded economists' expectations of a 2.7 per cent rate of economic expansion.

The implicit price deflator, a broad gauge of inflation that measures price changes on selected goods and services, remained unchanged from the previous estimate of 3.2 per cent.

The department said the rise in GNP was supported by a downward revision in the size of the trade

deficit during the third quarter to \$57.1 billion, \$6.5 billion less than previously estimated.

Since the department's initial third quarter GNP report, the estimate of the size of the trade deficit has been cut by \$17 billion, leading to an overall upward revision in growth. In the second quarter the deficit was \$51.2 billion.

The department also said consumer spending was revised down to 5.6 per cent growth rate in the third quarter, compared with a previous estimate of 6.2 per cent. Consumer spending, the engine of economic growth, accounts for about two-thirds of demand for the economy's goods and services.

Economists said growth slowed in October and November and they expect it to weaken in the fourth quarter. Manufacturing employment has declined for the past several months and many economists think basic industry is in a recession.

In a sign of slower economic growth, the department said business investment also eased, growing at a 5.2 per cent rate in the third quarter, compared with an 8.6 per cent rate in the second quarter.

EEC and Arab League meet

PARIS, Dec 20, (AP): A two-day conference of foreign ministers of the European Economic Community and the Arab League gets underway tomorrow despite misgivings discreetly expressed by the United States.

The initiative for the unprecedented meeting came from French President Francois Mitterrand, current chairman of the 12-nation European Economic Community, to give a new impetus to the EEC's exchanges with the Arab world.

But the United States has taken a critical view of the idea, conference sources reported, because it would exaggerate the importance of the EEC, which is preparing to create a single European market among the 12 by the end of 1992.

Furthermore, the Americans dislike the idea of Libya, Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation - with which the United States has no trade relations - participating fully and dealing on equal basis with the members of the European Economic Community.

Informants said Britain and some Arab countries close to the United States - notably Saudi Arabia - dragged their feet on taking part in the meeting because of the American misgivings.

Finally all 12 members of the community and the 22 members of the Arab League decided to take part for fear of being isolated within their groups.

Libya was seen as the most reluctant Arab participant because of the French military intervention to help the government of Chad against Libyan-backed rebels and the French decision to renew the ban on shipment of French-made arms to Libya.

The government of Col. Moammar Khaddafi decided to participate "only at the urgent request of its Arab brothers," Libya's Jana news agency said.

The first steps to creating an "Arab-European dialogue" were taken in 1973 when the oil crisis had brought the Arab states to the high-point of their power.

Gold eases Dollar mixed

LONDON, Dec 20, (Agencies): The dollar ended mixed against major foreign currencies today in hectic but thin European trading after US forces invaded Panama.

Gold prices were lower. Traders said the dollar was boosted early in the trading day by the US military action but by an unexpected upward revision in the third-quarter US economic growth rate.

The dollar stabilised later in the day, traders said, and then slipped back in mild profit-taking.

"We think (the Panama situation) is very much a smoke screen and an excuse to buy dollars," said one London dealer. "If the market was genuinely frightened from the news, why didn't gold also gain?"

Investors traditionally turn to the dollar and gold as safe havens in times of turmoil.

Traders cautioned against drawing too many conclusions from dollar movements in the market, thinned by the holiday season.

In Tokyo, the dollar rose to a closing 144.25 Japanese yen from 143.80 yen at Tuesday's close. Later, in London, it fell to 143.90 yen.

Other late dollar rates in Europe, compared with late Tuesday: —1.7355 West German marks, down from 1.7365 —1.5585 Swiss francs, down from 1.5615 —5.9165 French francs, down from 5.9300 —1.9720 Dutch guilders, up from 1.9575 —1.288.00 Italian lire, down from 1,291.25 —1.6255 Canadian dollars, up from 1.6155

In London, the British pound rose to \$1.6052 from \$1.6005 late Tuesday. \$413.75 bid late Tuesday.

In Zurich, the metal fell to a closing bid of \$413.00 down from \$414.00 bid late Tuesday.

Gold in Hong Kong fell 76 cents to close at a bid \$412.04. Silver bullion fell in London to a late bid price of \$5.56 a troy ounce, down from \$5.57 bid late Tuesday.

In London, shares were firm but off the day's highs, having eased after some brief early weakness on Wall Street with concern over US military action in Panama.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 38512.00 (+72.90)			
Volume: 1.0 mil shs			
Yen exchange rate: 143.97			
Name of stock	CI	Ca	
Advantech Corp	4800	-	
Ajinomoto	2820	-	
Alps Electric	1930	-10	
Amada	2030	-40	
Asahi Chem Ind	1230	-30	
Asahi Glass	2330	-10	
C. Itoh Co	1190	-20	
Canon Inc	1760	-20	
Casio Comp	1480	-20	
Dai Nippon Printing	2380	+30	
Delichi Seiyaku	2800	-30	
Dainippon Ph	2800	-20	
Daiichi Chem	1750	-	
Eisel	2120	+30	
Fanuc Ltd	7700	-	
Fuji Photo	4450	-40	
Fujitsu Ltd	1480	-10	
Hitachi Credit	2000	+40	
Hitachi Koki	2080	+30	
Hitachi Ltd	1480	-20	
Honda Motor	1820	-10	
Ito Yokado Co	4550	-70	
Nippon Steel Corp	814	+6	
Nippondenso	2400	-40	
Nitazaki Corp	1480	+20	
Nomura Sec	3590	-30	
Okuma Mach	1810	-20	
Osward K Co	2410	-20	
Orix Corp	6600	-40	
Pioneer Elec Co	5780	+30	
Renova Look Inc	2410	0	
Sanyo Elec Co	945	-10	
Secom Co. Ltd	6240	-30	
ShinEtsu Chem	1780	0	
Shindengen Elec	1290	0	
Sony Corp	8450	-70	
Sumitomo Elec Ind	1680	0	
Sumitomo Metal Ind	878	-3	
Tekeda Chemical	2300	0	
TDK Corp	5390	-50	
Tokio Marine & Fire	2170	-70	
Tokyo Elec Power	6150	+140	
Tokyo Electron Ltd	3300	-20	
Toshiba Corp	2180	+20	
Toray Ind Inc	1020	+10	
Toyota Motor	1240	+10	
Yaskawa Elec	1260	-20	
Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midwest), Bahrain			

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA

(Ontario, Nova Scotia and Quebec)
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E. German industrial production declines

EAST BERLIN, Dec 20, (Reuters): East German industrial output dropped last month and the number of unfilled targets have more than doubled, worsening consumer shortages and hurting export commitments, official figures published today showed.

The Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland carried a bleak report on the economy today, coinciding with a visit by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for talks focusing on emergency aid for East Germany.

Industrial output dropped 2.5 per cent last month from the corresponding period last year, the first time this had happened, Neues Deutschland said in an article headlined, "disturbing economic results in November."

It linked the poor performance with the exodus of more than 330,000 East Germans to the West. This had reduced the workforce by 53,800, or two per cent, from last year, strapping many key industries.

Among the 383 state production plans, the number unable to meet their target had more than doubled from 65 to 148.

This led to worsening consumer goods shortages and hampered fulfilment of export commitments, the paper said.

Consumer goods worst affected by output and supply bottlenecks included car tyres, high-tension electrical switches, spare parts for agricultural machinery and telecommunications equipment.

East Germany also fell far short of targets for residential construction despite stepped up efforts to rectify a longtime housing shortage. Builders were 7,921 units behind the 1989 plan as of the end of November.

Practical steps to help East Germany's economy, run into the ground by decades of Stalinist state mismanagement, topped Kohl's talks with Prime Minister Hans Modrow on Tuesday.

Bonn government sources said Kohl offered a package of 36 billion in credits and guarantees for East Germany in recognition of its commitment to democracy and a market economy.

This year's exodus to the West seemed to have had an effect on the country's now lop-sided demography as well.

The number of live births was 183,000, 15,900 fewer than in the same period last year, while the number of deaths dropped by 7,600 to 186,000.

East Germany's creaking economy needs young workers, but many of them - including many women of child-bearing age - have left to find better lives for their families in the West.

Record sales for Sotheby's

LONDON, Dec 20, (Reuters): Sotheby's, the world's largest art auctioneer, said today that contemporary and impressionist works helped to boost its world-wide sales to a record \$2.93 billion this year.

In a statement released in London, Sotheby's Holdings Inc said sales were 61 per cent higher than its previous record of \$1.8 billion in 1988.

"Sotheby's growth this year is most dramatically illustrated in the areas of contemporary and impressionist art," said Michael Ainslie, president and chief executive.

Sotheby's more than doubled to \$797 million its sales of impressionist, contemporary and modern art during the autumn season compared to sales in the same period a year ago.

Masterpieces such as Picasso's self-portrait "Yo Picasso", brought in \$47.9 million and his "Au Lapin Agile" was sold for \$40.7 million. The prices were the third and fourth-highest paid for a work of art sold at auction.

"There were excellent results for both departments in New York and London with a world record total of \$269.5 million set at the New York sale of impressionist and modern art on November 15," Ainslie said.

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Sensational show by Butt

ADNAN Butt, a visiting Pakistani television and stage singer, put on a sensational performance at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel on Friday, Dec 15, to the delight of a very large crowd.

The function, which was presided by the Pakistan Ambassador to Kuwait, Zahid Saeed, saw Adnan entertain the largely Pakistani and Indian crowd for three hours.

Adnan, whose melodious voice captivated the audience sang ghazals, thumris and Punjabi songs which found favour with the over 300 people gathered for the event. His presentation was a rare treat for the music lovers in Kuwait.

A local female singer, Radha Menon, contributed to a fine evening by singing some popular songs. Her contribution, added to an excellent performance by Adnan, made the whole show enjoyable.

A duet "So Saal Pahle" by Adnan and Radha was the best of the evening.

Later the Pakistani Ambassador praised the singer and praised the organisers for bringing such a talented singer to Kuwait.

The musical evening was preceded by three musical evenings arranged by a new and upcoming music group "Rhythm and Rhyme" at the residences of Sohail Buti, Naveed Mir and Yahya Mir. These events were also attended by a very wide cross section of the Indian and Pakistani community.

The final musical evening at the Ramada was organised also by "Rhythm and Rhyme" in association with the Pakistan Arts Circle (PAC).

PAC also used the occasion to honour Faiz Mohyuddin, the reigning badminton champion of Kuwait, for his unbeaten run in this country for the last six years by presenting him with a gift.

Adnan Butt is leaving shortly for Dubai for series of musical evenings being arranged for him, before returning to Pakistan.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 9.00 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.15 Sabah Al Kher: News and variety
- 9.30 Cartoons
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Rajal Fi Al Masyada: Arabic serial (part 1), starring Muna Abdul Ghani, Mohammed Redha, Raja Al Jedawi and Fuad Khaleel
- 11.30 The Open University: Cultural programme
- 12.00 Sabah Al Kher, news and variety
- 12.15 Hwar Wa Nham: Local programme, prepared by Qasem Abdul Qader
- 1.00 News summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 Sports in a Week: Sports programme, prepared and presented by Sports Programmes Control
- 2.45 Liqa Al Khamess: Local variety programme
- 4.00 Maa Al Talaba: Local programme, prepared by school activity department at the Ministry of Education
- 5.00 Breen: Cartoon serial
- 5.30 Cartoons
- 5.45 Night chemists, airlines and official advertisements
- 6.00 Al Bahr La Yabtal Al Shams: Arabic serial (part 6)
- 7.00 Egypt information message to the State of Kuwait
- 7.15 Al Forsiyya: Local programme
- 7.45 Kul Al Foonon: Local programme, prepared by Hassan Awwara
- 8.30 Maa Al Islam: Prepared and presented by Dr Khaled Al Mathkloor
- 9.00 News in Arabic

- 9.15 Al Manzel Al Khafi: Arabic serial (part 10)
- 10.45 Awlad Haz: Arabic Feature Film, starring Saeed Saleh, Sabreen, Mahmoud Al Qalawi, and Musheera Ismael
- 12.30 Special late night variety programme
- 1.25 News summary
- 1.30 The World Today via Satellite
- 2.00 Holy Quran and Closedown

FRIDAY

- 9.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.25 Cartoons
- 10.00 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.15 Children Magazine: Local Children Programme
- 10.30 Al Ahadeeth Al Mawdooa: Religious Programme, presented by Sheikh Salah Abu Ismael
- 11.00 Live from the Grand Mosque for the Friday Prayers and Speeches
- 12.30 Alwan: Variety Programme, prepared by Mohamed Al Fares and presented by Fatema Abdul Wahab

- 1.00 News Summary
- 1.05 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 Friday Break: Variety Programme, prepared and presented by Varieties Programmes Control
- 3.00 Daqat Al Sas: Arabic serial (part 12)
- 4.00 Hadeeth Dinec: Religious programme, presented by Sheikh Mohammed Mitwalli Al Sharawi
- 4.45 We Are Your Friends: Local Programme
- 5.00 Cartoon Serial
- 5.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
- 6.00 KUTV Programmes in a week
- 6.30 Kuwait in a Week: News Programme
- 7.15 The Family Programme: Local Programme

- 7.45 Silk Road: Cultural Programme (Part 10)
- 8.40 Hadeeth Al Osboo: Religious Programme, presented by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
- 9.00 News in Arabic
- 9.45 Wrestling
- 10.30 Dafater Al Ayam: Variety Cultural late night show with guest writer Hena Mina
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.25 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Fantastic Max: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Mr Wizard's World: A variety of magical acts and illusions
- 7.00 Wild America: "Managing Wildlife". A look at the natural balancing between all kinds of animals... Man's interference has done much harm to such balancing as man is considered the major predator
- 7.30 My Secret Identity: "The Video Connection". Andrew is called to exploit his unnatural power as he is required to help his friend... and to give information to the police about a dangerous gang
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Murder, She Wrote: a professor insists that he killed the young girl... But Jessica the authoress refuses to accept the professor's allegations and starts her investigations
- 9.30 Just for the Record: an exciting and entertaining programme capturing record-breaking achievements from

- the tremendous to the trivial...
- 10.00 The Golden Girls: "The Operation". While training on curhythmic dance one of the golden girls feels sick and is rushed to the operation room
- 10.30 Feature Film: "Going for the Gold". Starring: Antony Edwards, Sarah Jessica Darker. The story of Ben Johnson who fought for the gold medal in ice-skating with the help and guidance of his father
- 12.00 News in Brief
- 12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

FRIDAY

- 6.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 6.10 Macron 1: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 Walt Disney Movie "Flash". Allen marries a mermaid called Madecine who attempts to change her nature as a fish. A researcher attempts to study her case
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.30 Breaking Away: Recreational and entertainment activities
- 8.45 Aids: The Global Explosion. The spread of Aids Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome throughout the world is considered a serious danger that threatens humanity
- 9.30 The Weekend Programme: A weekly local programme on a variety of topics and local activities and events
- 10.00 Roseanne "Monday Through Friday". Dan arranges to spend the holiday with his wife, Rose. What happens to her kids and Jackie Roseanne's sister...
- 10.30 Supercarrier
- 11.30 News in Brief
- 11.45 Magazine D'actualite



KTV2, Friday — 10.30 pm: Supercarrier

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Tribal Rugs & Oriental Prints
THE Sultan Gallery will be holding a Tribal Rugs and Oriental Prints exhibition starting Saturday Dec 23, until Jan 15. On Saturday, the Gallery will be open from 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Else, it will be open from 9.30 am to 12.30 noon and 5.00 pm to 8.00 pm. For more information contact: 2421951.

Seminar
THERE will be a seminar at the DAA on "Arabic and European Art in the Light of Zodiocal Symbolism" December 10, 1989 - January 10, 1990. Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 - 12.30 am. Anyone wishing to register for this seminar may do so at the DAA during museum hours.

SOCIAL

Musical Variety
PAKISTAN Arts Circle will hold a musical variety

programme on the eve of the "New Year" on Sunday, the 31st Dec, 1989 at Sr. Vice-President's residence. Zahid Saeed Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan will preside. The programme, includes competition of singers, presentation of a leading poet of Kuwait, bingo and "Bait-Bazi" of ladies, as well as many other attractive features. Families interested are welcome but they should collect the invitation cards. Honorary member families are requested to kindly collect their invitation cards from the Secretary, Public Relations, Hamid Mahmood: 4716258 as soon as possible.

Sing along contest
FRIDAY 22 to 29 December: Arsliya Restaurant is having the last two sing along and duet singing contests of 1989. Lots of gifts, delicious Filipino food with entertainment by Mansour and Elvis Presley. Come in flocks!! For more info: 2402540/2428284.

Southerners
DEC 22: Southerners invite their members and guests to celebrate X'mas family get-together at the Ramada Al Salam Hotel (the new Al Mirage Ballroom) to the excellent music by Top Ranks and Mr Leo's Magic Show. Santa Clause will be distributing gifts to all kids and other attractive gifts to prizewinners. Fun and entertainment for entire family starting from 10am on December 22, 1989. For passes contact Ligory on 2425705 or 2412444.

Konkani Drama
THE New Goans Overseas Association are pleased to announce Menino De Bandar's "Sonsarant Astana Diat" a Konkani play which will be held in the Indian Arts Circle (Funaites) on the 16th of February 1990. The cast all from Goa includes M. Boyer, C. D'Silva, Betty Naz, Junior Rod, Rosario Dias. Plans open in early January.

Pongal celebrations
BHARATHI Kalai Mandram is organising Pongal Celebrations on 29th December in the Indian Arts Circle auditorium with a variety of entertainments for children and adults from 5 to 8.30 pm. All are welcome. For details and entry passes please contact 3716976, 5718935, 5631230 or 5627718.

Kalpak's drama competition
Kerala Arts and Literature Promoting Association of Kuwait (Kalpak) is organising a Malayalam drama competition on 8th and 9th of February 1990.

One act plays of 40 minutes duration will only be considered for the competition. Prizes will be awarded for best drama, best script (only for amateurs), best direction (from Kuwait) best direction. Stage setting, best actor (Prem Nazir award) best actress & best child artist, from the selected entries. Interested parties may send their applications along with a copy of the script to Varghese Paradayil, P.O. Box 47, 13001 Safat, Kuwait.

For more details pls contact Varghese 5635481. Kurien 5658072 or Balakrishnan 4316737.

Christmas 1989 N.E.C.K.
THE National Evangelical Church of Kuwait (English language) will have the following Christmas function:

- Dec 24: Sunday Worship Service 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Celebration in the Mansour Courtyard following the Service 8.00 - 10 pm.
- Candlelight Carol Sing around the fire and Buffet Cook Out. (Bring your own food to cook and your own Candle in a Glass Windshield).
- Christmas Eve N.E.C.K. Communion Service 10.30 pm - 12.00 pm.
- Dec 25 Christmas Day Service 9.00 - 10.30 am.
- Dec 31 The Watchnight Service 11.00 pm - 12.30 am. For more info phone: 5627568.

Kuwait Welsh Society
A CHRISTMAS party will be held on December 28, 1989 at 8 pm. For details ring 3721383 or 3713467.

Cultural function
ON the occasion of Victory Day of Bangladesh, a cultural function will be organised by the Bangladesh Association on Friday, Dec 22, at 6.00 pm at the Sharq Co-operative auditorium. All Bangladeshis are invited to the programme.

Christmastide 1989
A series of Holy functions will take place at the Holy Family Cathedral starting Dec 24. On this date, there will be Holy Masses from 7.00 am to 6.00 pm in English and Konkani. Procession and Pontifical High Mass will be at 11.00 pm. On Dec 25 the Holy Masses will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm in five different languages. On Dec 31 the Holy Masses will start at 7.00 am to 11 pm in English and Konkani and on New Year's, they will start from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm, again in five different languages. For more information contact 2434637.

Saez Aur Aawaz
FEB 2: Saez Aur Aawaz, one of the leading Indian musical groups of Kuwait present their fourth musical programme entitled Bhule Bisle Geet. The show includes Hindi film songs at the Indian Arts Circle, Funaites on February 2, 1990. Passes will be available shortly.

Vishal Musical Group
VISHAL Musical Group is conducting their 2nd musical programme on Friday, January 3 at 6.00 pm at Funaites Indian Arts Circle. The programme contains the most popular old and new hit songs from Hindi films. Also classical and fast dances by young talented artists. Centres for distribution of passes will be announced shortly.

People's Trust Club
DEC 29: People's Trust Club welcomes you to a day of your life at Ramada Al Salam (Marriott) Hotel, New Ballroom from 10.30 am onwards. Nimble feet, hungry palate, perfect blend of music and style. A get-together with buffet. Featuring Stepping Stones, Top Ranks, Perfect Strangers. There will be novelties and surprises galore.

Lecture & Video: The school system in England & Wales
HOW is the British school system currently structured? What is the National Curriculum? Why has GCSE replaced GCE "O" levels? Find out by coming to our lecture and video showing. In the British Council Gallery on Saturday 23rd December from 6.00 - 7.30. Please telephone to reserve your seat.

IAC Children's Competition
THE dates of finals of the Children's Competition will take place at IAC Funaites on 13th, 14th, 15th, 27th and 28th December '89 and 18th January '90 respectively. For more details contact Indian Schools.

Kuwait Cultural Centre
NEW courses at the cultural centre: yoga healing classes, two sessions in the evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays; jujitsu (martial arts), Saturday and Mondays, pm; Chinese cooking classes, Saturdays, 9-11 am. For details call 5624393.

Kuwait Nomads R.F.C
THE Kuwait Nomads Annual Xmas Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 21 at 7.30 pm. For more information contact: S. Hill on 5391720, R. Houston on 5658435 or G. Adams on 5644533.

SPORTS

At the Holiday Inn Health Club and Recreation Centre
SWIMMING lessons available all year round with qualified swimming instructors. Open to non members. Mon-Tues-Wed 3.30 to 5.30, beginners-improvers-adults. Mixed keep fit classes, Wed 5-6 Thurs 6-7, Fri 12-1.00 and 1-2.00, Sat 5-6.00. Ladies keep fit, Mon 5-6, Tues 5-6, Fri 5-6 and Sun 5.30-6.30. Martial arts w/ black belt instructor Mon-Wed 6-7. Taekwondo Sat-Mon, 7-8 Thurs 5-6. Bowling alley available for private company and community tournaments. Five squash courts. Squash handicap every Sunday start 6 pm - all standards, open to non-members. Squash coach-

ing available from professional coach everyday, from 1 pm. Massage for men and women. Gym facilities for men and women. Tennis courts - coaching available. Plus lots more. Phone for further details - Recreation Manager: 4742000 ext 6788 Julie Dent or 6700 recreation.

Discover the world down under
Learn to scuba dive. Classes will be in small groups. Course is for approximately 6 weeks beginning early January. Padi Certification upon completion of Open Water Course. For details visit Discover Scuba Nights at Kuwait International Hotel on 5th and 8th January or call 2530000/8050 (Antony King).

IAC table tennis
THE IAC table tennis tournament from Dec 29 till Jan 5. All members, their families and guests interested in participating please call IAC (Tel. 3904817) after 7 pm, or Jagdish at Tel. 2433552, or Sharma at Tel. 2644863 for entry passes and details.

PRAYERS

Fajr	5.13 am
Zohr	11.46
Asr	2.36 pm
Maghreb	4.54
Isha	6.17

FRIDAY

Fajr	5.14 am
Friday prayer	11.46
Asr	2.36 pm
Maghreb	4.54
Isha	6.17

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Salem
Fahd Al Salem St.
Al Muntaser
Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Hawalli & Nagra
Al Hana
Beirut St.

Salimiya & Rumeithiya
Al Raed
Amnan St.
Fahadheel
Wafa
Dabbous St.
Farwanya
Huwaila
Clinic Road
Jabra
Abraj
Dubai Al Khuzae St.

● All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.



Cooking demonstration at Le Meridien

Le Meridien Kuwait conducted a cooking demonstration for the Ladies International League of Kuwait on 17th December 1989. Preparation of delicacies for the festive season was demonstrated by Meridien Hotel's Executive Chef, Didier Cazas, and Pastry Chef, Ricardo Murillo. This special cooking session was organised by Jinni Woods, wife of the General Manager. Photograph shows Pastry Chef Ricardo Murillo (right), Jinni Woods and the guests (invitees).

Tenby

Tenby

MADE IN ENGLAND

JUNIOR TIMES

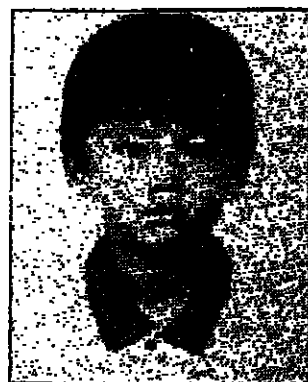
Happy birthday



Hussain Merchant turned 8 on December 14



Christina Abraham turns 9 on December 24



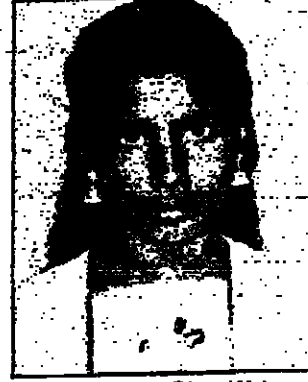
Liao Ting-I turns 8 on December 23



Reena Abraham turns 9 on December 23



Mohammed Al Quader turns 11 on December 23



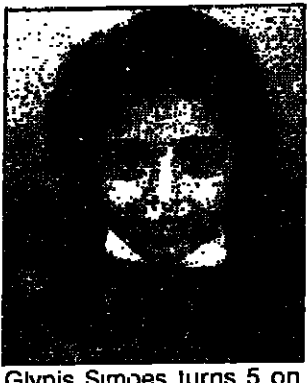
Shakeela Sherifdeen turns 13 on December 23



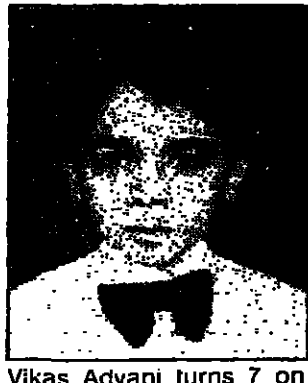
Ali Ahmed on December 22



Nelroy D'Costa turns 7 on December 23



Glynis Simoes turns 5 on December 23



Vikas Advani turns 7 on December 23



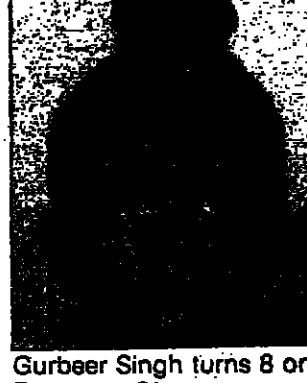
Rosetta Pereira turns 8 on December 22



Bincy Anu George turns 8 on December 22



Hagen Fernandes turns 8 on December 22



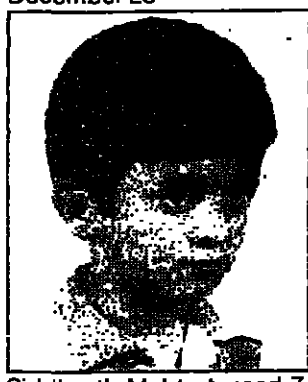
Gurbiser Singh turns 8 on December 21



Aavinash Thawani turns 1 on December 21



Tasneem Mohsin turns 12 on December 21



Siddharth Mehta turned 7 on December 17



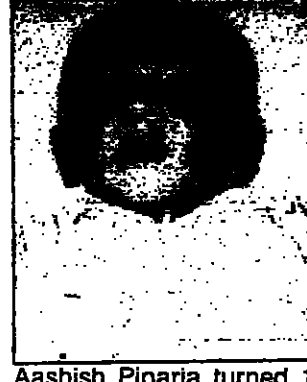
Kevin Rajan turns 8 on December 21



Noel Bhasker turns 5 on December 21



Sandeep Singh Chadha turned 5 on December 20



Aashish Piparia turned 1 on December 19



A.V. Pradeep Shankar turned 7 on December 18



Sijo Jacob turned 7 on December 18



Siddharth Shrivastava turns 7 on December 21



Noel Alex Pinto turns 4 on December 25



Vinita Sharma turns 9 on December 25



Vineet Sharma turns 12 on December 21



Zubair Ahmed turned 2 recently

Just for laughs!

What must you be careful not to do when it's raining cats and dogs?
Step in a poodle.

Teacher: "Michael, it's a bit stooped isn't it to bring an axe to school?"

Michael: "It was your idea miss. You said it was time we broke up."

Baby bear went out to see his dad, sitting on the ice floes.

He said to him, "Dad, dad, I am a polar bear, aren't I?"

And his dad said, "Yes son, you are."

"I mean, I am real polar bear, aren't I?" said Baby Bear. "A really, really, truly, truly, truly, polar-bearly polar bear?"

"But of course you are son," said his dad. "Of course you are."

"Hundred percent?"

"Yes, hundred percent."

"Well in that case, why am I so cold?"

My mum went down the doctors. She said, 'I've come to thank you doctor. There was I thinking I was a dog and you cure me.'

The doctor said, 'Are you sure you're alright now?'

My mum said, 'Yes. Feel my nose.'

'My uncle used to keep his hyena in the water butt.'

'Really, what was it like?'

'A barrel of laughs.'

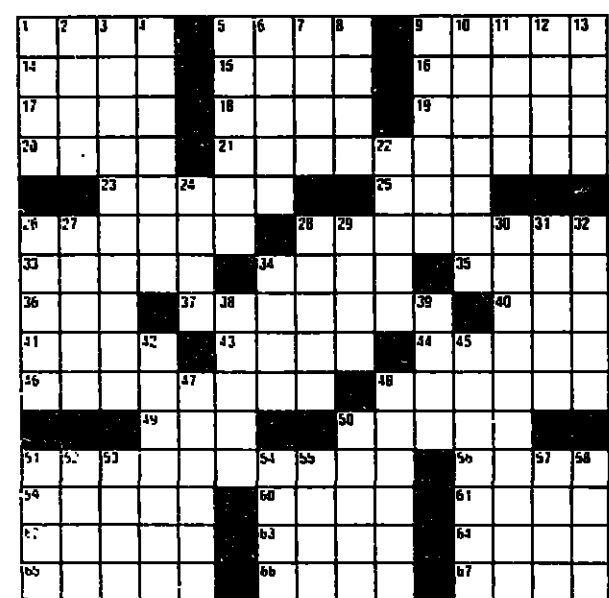
Why did the farmer drive over his potato with a steam-roller?

'Cos he wanted mashed potatoes.'

What did the big candle say to the little candle?

'You're too young to go out.'

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you in the modern style.

hold:
♠A5 ♠Q10532 ♠6 ♠QJ652

In first seat, do you open the bidding?
A.—Even counting every distributional point, the total is only 12. When you take into account that you have only one defensive trick and the fact that the hand has no "body," it should be obvious that a pass is the right action.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A5 ♠Q10532 ♠6 ♠QJ652

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

Pass 1 Pass 1 ♠

What action do you take?

A.—Now is the time to get into the bidding. However, a double would suggest a less distributional hand with more defensive potential. Our choice is one no trump. Since you could not open originally and the opponents are in a forcing auction, this can't be natural. It is a form of the Unusual No Trump, promising at least five cards in each of the two unbid suits.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AKJ6532 ♠62 ♠K83 ♠4

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A.—Don't put pressure on partner. You want to play in a spade game regardless of partner's support, and there's one way to tell him of that—jump to four spades. Three spades would be invitational, not forcing.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K42 ♠Q98542 ♠63 ♠85

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond? A.—You have a weak hand that is unsuitable for playing in no trump. Bid two hearts. (If you are playing transfer bids, bid two diamonds to transfer to hearts.) With perfectly fitting hands you might miss a game, but that's life.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠A53 ♠KJ952 ♠63 ♠752

Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond? A.—You have enough to invite game, and the way to do it is to bid two clubs, inquiring about partner's major. If he denies a four-card major with two diamonds, bid two hearts to show a five-card suit and values; if he bids two hearts, raise to three; and if he bids two spades, retreat to two no trump to show an invitational hand. (Life is easier if you play transfer bids.)

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AKJ9862 ♠Void ♠5 ♠AQ1053

What is your opening bid?

A.—While you might be able to make game in your own hand, you are not worth demand bid. First, your defensive capabilities are rather meager, and you won't know what to do if partner were to double the enemy at a high level. Secondly, you might need all the room you can muster to describe your monstrous two-suiter. Bid one spade.

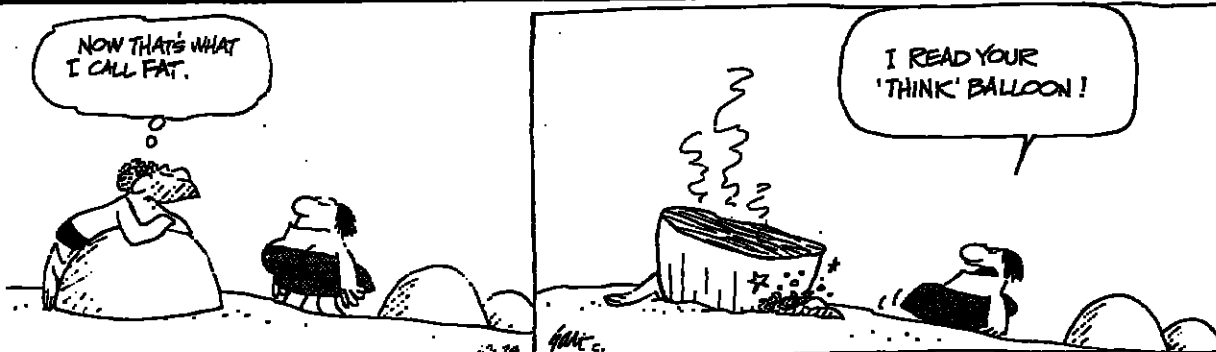
THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

Before you try to repair anything electrical things make sure you know just what you are doing. You will tend to be a little on the nervous side and should try to relax. Make sure you get all the rest you need... Be observant.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You are more liable to stumble so watch really well where you are going. You will have more charm but should not expect it to open all doors to you. Avoid eating so much that you put on weight unless you need to. Be little less extravagant.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

Not much will to your liking, but then you have set your sights just a little too high. Do not provoke, instead you should try to make a few concessions. Avoid trying to use force where charm, has not succeeded. Be less hostile to change.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will not be in the best of moods but should try not to give offense nevertheless. You should make up your mind and then be quick about doing what has to be done. Take the best care of your health. Be considerate.



Leo (July 22 - Aug 21)

Something that you had hoped would be easy will turn out to be quite difficult. However, you will be able to overcome the problems. Your lucky numbers are 14 and 38. Do not rely too much on others. Be cordial.



Virgo (Aug 22 - Sept 21)

If something keeps going wrong the reason is likely to be some small details you are not observing. Do not become angry just try again and a lot harder. You will not have an easy day, but the rewards will be good. Be objective.



Libra (Sept 22 - Oct 22)

An old friend will be very pleased to hear from you. You will have a lot to do but must get on with it without thinking about what remains to be done. Consider an offer or proposal carefully. Be courteous.



Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You should keep your objectives in mind and not allow some details to distract you. Do not let others dissuade you from doing what you think is important. And you must have the courage of your convictions. Be truthful.



Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Some little detail will be rather difficult to deal with but by determination you will succeed in so doing. Make sure you take sufficient exercise, nothing too exhausting.



Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You will have a lot to do at work but you should not neglect your personal affairs either. Something on which you embarked some time ago will now bear fruit. Do not expect others always to agree with you. Be tactful.



Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 18)

Something you have learnt recently will now come in extremely useful. You must avoid spending money as if it grew on trees. Do not think that you are always right, others always wrong. Be generous.



Pisces (Feb 19 - March 19)

Something you did some time ago will now come into its own. However, you must beware of living too much in the past. Make sure you keep a promise. Be methodical.

Dear Junior readers,

Merry Christmas. Julie Hodgson and Jovial D'Souza have both written stories, especially for you, about Christmas.

For many people around the world Christmas is a very special time of the year. Many families celebrate Christmas with fresh hope for the coming year.

Perhaps this time of the year is extra special to some who do not even celebrate the event in itself, even for those parents whose children study abroad

whether in boarding schools or universities. I was at the airport a few days ago and experienced the warmest feelings as I watched so many mothers hug their children. Their houses glow with the uniting of family members.

Last year some were not so lucky. Their beloved never returned. They were killed in a disastrous plane crash. Let us hope that some of the hurt and sadness has cooled down and that these unfortunate families are able to enjoy Christmas this year.

Manal

The magic of Xmas

By Julie Hodgson

SHELLY sat on the window sill, gazing out of the window, hoping to catch a glimpse of Santa Claus, on his way to deliver all the gifts to all the good boys and girls, from around the world.

Shelly lived in a tiny village in Switzerland. The snow had made all the roofs white, the sky was cloudy, the clouds were heavy with snow. Shelly knew that the snow would fall tonight. She hoped that she could still catch a glimpse of Santa on his way to her village.

She was very tired, because it being Xmas eve and all, she had stayed up longer with her parents, to help decorate the tree. She had hung her stocking by the big fire, and put some cookies and a warm drink for Santa when he came.

Her little brother was fast asleep, snoring gently. She hoped their letters had been received by Santa.

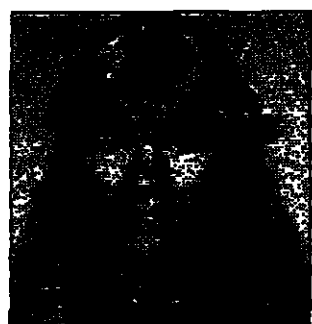
The snow started to fall, softly at first, she heard carol singers, near the village square, singing so crisp and clear, she closed her eyes and listened.

The snow was falling harder now, but it was not a storm, the wind had picked up, but not too much.

Shelly was half asleep, her eyelids were heavy, she thought she heard slay bells, but was too tired to open her eyes.

The next moment (or so Shelly thought) her little brother was shouting excitedly. "Wake up, wake up, it's Xmas day."

Shelly opened her eyes wide, and looked around, the snow as much deeper than the last time she looked, had she fallen



asleep by the window sill, and missed seeing Santa?

Shelly raced down stairs with her little brother close behind, when they reached the fire place, they saw their stockings were full to the brim, they jumped up excitedly. "Merry Xmas one and all, and peace on earth" they shouted gaily.

Their mother and father looked at their two children, and sighed, they looked so happy and content, well that's the magic of Xmas...

The legend of Christmas

High up in the Northpole, Just like everyone knows. It is cold and chilly, And never stops to snow.

A story is known by people, Who live in that land. They sing it every Christmas Eve, holding hand in hand.

Maybe it's a real happening, I cannot believe its true. I cannot guess your opinion, If this story is told to you.

Every Christmas Eve, Santa gives away toys, and makes sure that, it is received by girls and boys.

Once on such a Christmas Eve, It was very cold and dark. Neither the people were awake, Nor did the dogs bark.

Santa told all his reindeers, to be fast and hurry. For if they didn't give the presents, there would be lot of worry.

Santa somehow decided to go ahead on his way, to give presents early, before night turned to day.

Santa reached the first house, of the reindeer who was good. And always obeyed his parents, like all reindeers should.

He walked into his room,

and to his surprise, some lights was shining, in front of his eyes.

This reindeer was Rudolf, the best reindeer of all. He was very handsome, very thin and very tall.

He had a big bright nose, as big as a grape. It shone at night, and was round in shape.

Santa who was very wise, had a thought in his head. And then shook Rudolf, who was sleeping on the bed.

Santa asked Rudolf, to give him a hand. As his nose was bright, Santa could see the land.

Rudolf led the reindeers, with all his delight. And the land could be seen, with Rudolf's red light.

This takes place every year, and is a very great thing. Thus all the people, hold hands and sing.

At Christmas if you stay quiet, as quiet as a mouse. Even you can hear Santa, flying about your house.

And as he goes away, away out of sight. Santa will always say, Merry Christmas and have a good night.

By: Jovial D'Souza, Age: 13 years, Indian School, STD: IX B.

Christmas Match

Directions: Draw a line from the Christmas word in Column A to the picture that matches the word in Column B. Use this match to solve the message below. Place the letter of the picture in the box below the number that comes before the word of your match. One is done for you to help you solve the message.

- A
- bell
 - tree
 - present
 - stocking
 - chimney
 - Santa
 - card
 - sleigh
 - star
 - wreath
 - reindeer



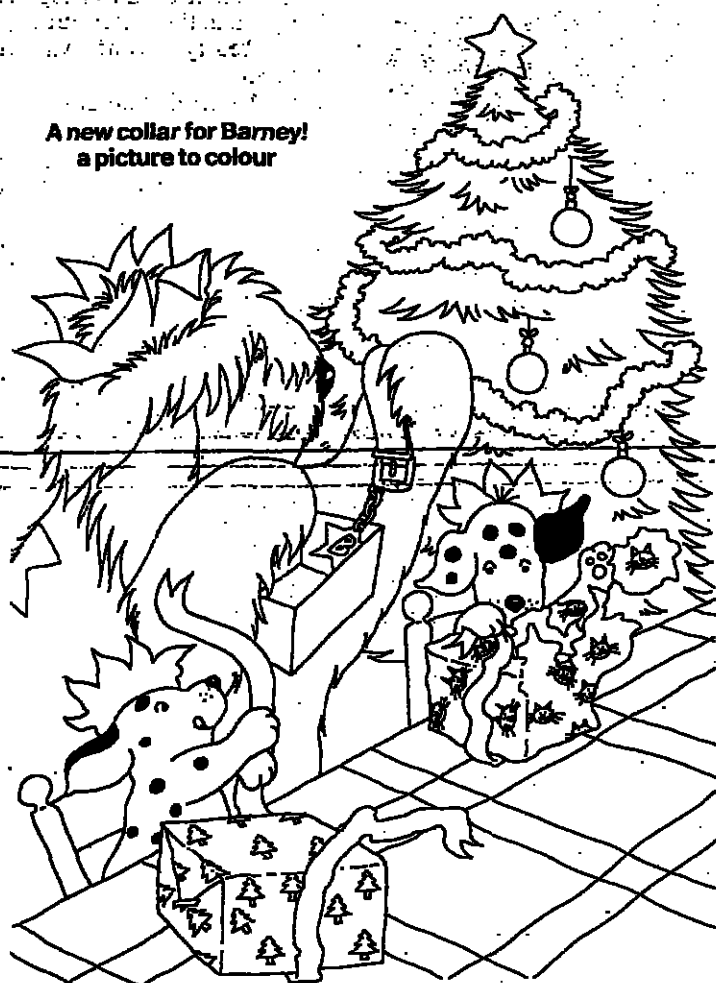
1	2	3	4

2	5	4	6	6	7

8	1	6	9	10	11	5	2	10

Colouring time

A new collar for Barney! a picture to colour



Word search

WINTER WARMERS

COAL
COLD
COOL
ELECTRIC
FIRE
FUEL
FURNACE
GAS
HEAT
HOT
HYDROELECTRIC

INSULATION
NUCLEAR
ORE
POWER
RADIANT
RADIATOR
SOLAR
SPACE HEATER
STOVE
SUN
WIND
WOOD
WOODSTOVE

S W W R F U R N A C E X H
P O I A L U S W O N R Y O
A O N D S T E A E L D U H
C D D I N R L L O R U O D
E S Q A L U E O O Q T O N
H T P T P C C E H E A T G
E O U O T S L L N P R R A
A V O R O E N O E D S A S
T E I W C Z O U L A T D Q
E C O T N U S O L A R I U
R O R T Z O C F I R E A Z
D I E N O I T A L U S N I
C E V O T S R E W O P T L

Remember to watch

I saw a little sparrow once, sitting on a wall, Feeding off the crumbs of bread, and biscuits broken small.

Rain water from a puddle he drunk with much relief, Then tried to pull a wriggly worm from under a soft brown leaf.

So engrossed in feeding, he just forgot to watch, A cat came from behind a bush, and ate him with one snatch....

Dorothy Howell, (Mabthorpe, Lincs. U.K.)

Join the dots

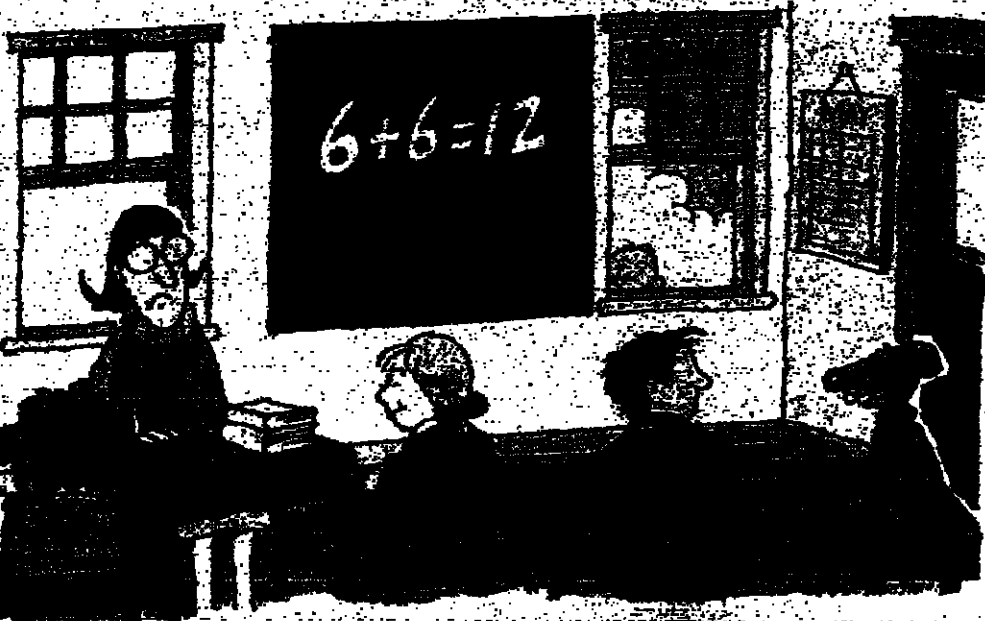


WHEN DOES 2+2=6?

WHEN YOU'RE NO GOOD AT SUMS!

Memory test

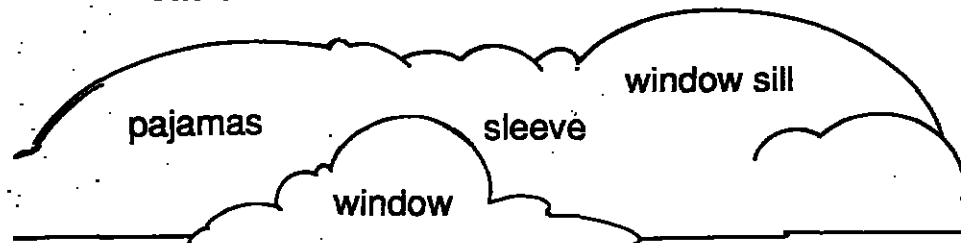
Look at this picture for one minute (time yourself with a watch), then cover the picture with a sheet of paper. Now see how many of the questions below you can answer.



- What is written on the blackboard?
- Who is sitting on the right of the boy with freckles?
- What colour jumper is the girl with the ponytail wearing?
- How many windows are open?
- What is hanging on the wall beside the door?
- What is the teacher wearing round her neck?
- How many books are on the teacher's table?

Dreams

Read the words in the dream cloud.



Write the words that tell about clothes.

Write the words that tell about parts of a house.

Amazing facts

The oldest recorded age at which someone has had a surgical operation is 111 years 105 days. Born July 25, 1849, died February 10, 1961, Henry Brett of Houston, Texas, underwent an operation on November 7, 1960.

In Perth, Australia, an 18-month old boy ate 30 cm venomous snake. His mother arrived in time to pull the tail end from his mouth—he was unharmed.

There are more acres in Yorkshire than words in the Bible.

Birthday coupon

Is your birthday to come soon? Are you a regular reader of the Junior Times? Well, now is the chance to let your friends know that it is your birthday! Or maybe you would like to surprise your best friend, brother or sister by putting their picture in for them. The details we need are:

Name: _____
Date of birth: _____
School: _____
Hobbies: _____
Telephone: _____ (confidential)

Your favourite most recent picture (4x6)

Send to: **ARAB TIMES**
Junior Times
P.O. Box 2270
13023, Safat, Kuwait
To avoid belated greetings please send within a week before the special date

VARIETY

Simple question asked simply

By Shaun Seekins

PARENTHOOD asks a very simple question, how is it that after spending so many years as children we are so unprepared when we are faced with the problems of bringing up our own offspring. The question is addressed from four different angles, using four siblings, their spouses, parents and children as models.

Gil (Steve Martin) and Karen (Mary Steenburgen) are a handsome middle class couple who are racked by guilt when their son (Jason Fisher) begins showing signs of deep emotional problems, despite being model parents. Helen (Diane Wiest) is a lonely and angry divorcee who finds no solace with her children: her teen-aged daughter (Martha Plimpton) has secretly married her deadbeat boyfriend (Keanu Reeves), and her son (Leaf Phoenix) has developed a brooding hatred for his estranged father. And Nathan (Rick Moranis), a well-intended yuppie, is driving his wife Susan (Harley Kozak) towards divorce as he insists on forcing foreign language classes, and other intellectual stimuli upon their hapless three-year-old daughter.

Gil, Helen and Susan, in turn, are the children of Frank (Jason Robards), a gruff and admittedly bad father who continues to be saddled with the burdens of his fourth child, Larry (Tom Hulce).

A drifter and dreamer whose gambling debts have put his life in peril, Larry has returned home with his illegitimate son to smooth talk his father into giving him the small fortune that will get him out of trouble.

The inclusion of this last subplot is the clincher for director Ron Howard and his gifted writers. They put over the message that responsibility for your children never really stops. Frank is 64 and ready to retire, but he ultimately has to sacrifice his hard-won financial security to come to the aid of his fully grown and seemingly irredeemable son.

If it has a problem it's that it tries to do too much. There are so many stories criss-crossing in the film that some characters just fade out on the way. Also while the film does a great job of showing Steve Martin and company as parents, it's difficult to believe that he, Weist, Kozak and Hulce are siblings, this area just too difficult to concentrate on this part of the story with so much happening elsewhere. But, maybe this is the writer's perceptiveness as work again, adult brothers and sisters are often very distant, and they don't always draw on each other for support.

This funny, perceptive and to-the-point dramatic comedy takes on one of the most complex issues that we have to face and it comes very close to perfection — certainly one of the best movies of the year.

Even when you don't have an idea what is going on — which is pretty much the whole time — The Package is a taut and gritty espionage thriller. The whole film is full of false identities and carefully scripted confusion. Unusually for these days, it is a film that demands that the viewer pays strict attention to even the most minute details.

The story starts out in Berlin, where East and West are about to sign a pact that will effectively remove nuclear weapons from the planet. Some Soviet and American officials are not happy to see the end of the Cold war, however, and we spy on them as they begin hatching a plot which, although, undisclosed, is obviously quite evil.

Johnny Gallagher (Gene Hackman) is an American soldier assigned to provide security at the international conference. After an American general is killed by terrorists — a general who has resisted the evil plot — Gallagher is blamed for allowing the event to happen and seemingly punished when given the task of escorting a court-martialed soldier (Tommy Lee Jones) back to the States.

Upon arriving in America, Gallagher is attacked at the airport and the soldier escapes. But Gallagher quickly discovers that his prisoner has been travelling under a false identity and that in fact he might be an assassin sent to kill the Soviet leader during a visit to Chicago. Gallagher is forced into a complicated and tense race to stop the killing and in effect preserve world peace.

American Football Games continue, the Nabisco Masters tennis and the Storm Seal UK Snooker finals are available.

Abuse film by courtesy of the Video Club Salina Tel 5724372, Video Nana, Salina and VFI Farwaniya/Tintas Towers.



A young Indonesian girl wearing the Baduy tribe's traditional dark coloured sarong carries her baby brother in the forest in west Java. (Reuters wirephoto)

Primitive Indonesian tribe Baduy rebuff any intrusion

KADUK KETUG, Indonesia. (Reuters): In the beginning, the world was a peppercorn not far from the village of Kaduk Ketug. Mang Djali, whose Baduy tribe has for centuries chosen to live in isolation in these jungled mountains in West Java, prefers not to elaborate.

"If we talk too much about it we lose our way. We don't like to discuss our ancestors," he replied when asked about the Baduy belief that all people descended from them.

Even by the standards of great diversity that characterise the chain of islands that make up Indonesia, the animistic Baduy, whose origins are obscure, are most unusual.

They are thought to have fled to these forests late in the 16th century to escape the arrival of Islam in their region and they appear to have changed little since.

Some of the country's more primitive tribes are being brought, not always willingly, into modern ways. The Baduy, numbering 5,000, rebuff any intrusion into their world.

Djali makes his visitors welcome but is careful to ask when they plan to leave.

And next month, in time for the sacred rice harvest, the Baduy will shut themselves off completely for three months.

Their language is close to the Sundanese of West Java. Djali is one of the few here to speak even a little Indonesian.

"They're very nice neighbours. They keep to themselves," said a shopkeeper in a nearby town, chasing chickens out of her store.

Like many Indonesians, she believes the Baduy have magical powers.

The tribe is divided into two groups: the "outer" villages provide a ring of protection for the 40 families of the "inner" villages, the centre of the Baduy world.

Their villages are spotless, each featuring the same design of small house, with veranda, built of wood, bamboo and coconut palm.

The thick surrounding jungle, in contrast to that of the outside world further down the mountain, has been left largely intact except for a few neat paths and some rice fields.

Djali, who lives in an outer village where indigo clothes are the norm, defers strictly to the rules laid down by the white-

clothed inner villagers who occasionally pop down to make sure everyone is behaving.

"If the government rules one way and the inner Baduy another, then we follow the inner Baduy," Djali said.

Foreigners may not visit the inner sanctum. "It could cause some disaster for them and you," he said.

His warning is not of physical attack. Violence is banned.

A lot of things are banned here: the wheel, watches, ploughs, beasts of burden, adultery, lying, electricity, premarital sex, coffee trees, modern medicine and just about anything else modern. Books, paper, pens and shops are nowhere to be seen.

A visitor, struggling under the weight of a backpack full of possibly wicked goods, feeling twinges of discomfort.

In the inner villages, the taboo list gets longer — the touching of money is banned, for instance — but none of the taboos are written down.

Education is also out. "It's taboo because if someone gets clever he could cheat himself," says Djali.

It is evening and he sits patiently in the clean but spartan wooden house lit by one small lamp burning oil from a forest fruit.

Their religion is animistic, but again Djali avoids details. Is there a Baduy after-life?

"I don't know. It's not my business. When you're dead you're dead," he laughs.

The dead are buried, a certain type of tree planted on top, and forgotten.

"Everyone asks the same questions," he says with a smiling air of resignation.

His village, difficult to reach although only 161 km (100 miles) from Jakarta, gets a small but steady stream of visitors, most of them anthropologists and students.

Travel to the outside world is allowed if there is good reason and Djali and other villagers may even take the bus to Jakarta.

The ruling inner villagers, however, must go by foot, a walk of four days, and they may not stay in private houses.

A local newspaper recently reported that an inner Baduy, taken into a police car after a road accident in Jakarta, was obliged to make a ceremonial apology for his transgression.

LONDON, (UPI): Despite its immense popularity, the British monarchy could face extinction in the future if the tabloid press does not stop battering and trivializing the royal family, a royal expert says.

Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, a bible of the aristocracy, says tabloid press coverage of the royals is undermining the mystique that is inherent in the institution and could eventually bring its downfall.

Recent tabloid coverage, such as photographs of young Prince William urinating in a park — dubbed "the royal wee" or pictures of Princess Diana in a bathing suit are among the many invasions of privacy that denigrate the public image of the monarchy, he said.

"It's a giant nail in the coffin of monarchy," Brooks-Baker said, adding he is not hopeful that the tabloids will back off because such scores sell newspapers.

Brooks-Baker and Elizabeth Darley-Doran are examining these issues for a book they are writing about the monarchy.

Brooks-Baker said it is the mystery — which makes the royals royal and strengthens the monarchy.

Privacy and respect play important roles in preserving the dignity of the monarchy, who should be viewed as "someone special," he said. Once monarchs are portrayed doing something "slightly shabby or common," their image is threatened.

"So if you show a future king of England (urinating) by the side of the road you can say 'well that's sweet, that's funny,' but you've got to say to yourself, 'gosh, is that man going to be king?'" he said.

"The invasion of privacy is causing the moles to look like mountains, and the correct and orderly side of life is more and more ignored."

Many British kings have been unpopular, Brooks-Baker said, but they were respected because of their office.

Edward VII, Queen Victoria's son, was known for "wenching and drinking and gluttony and cheating at cards," Brooks-Baker said. "Nevertheless he went down as

palatable because of his job.

"If you had a monarch half as unattractive as Edward VII today he would be voted out of power in 24 hours."

The public could end the monarchy by using a referendum vote, but Brooks-Baker said the current Conservative government is not likely to pursue it. Such a move might be likely if the Labour Party or a leftist ground came to power at a time when the popularity of the monarchy was down, he said.

Right now, Queen Elizabeth II and most of the royal family are so popular, Brooks-Baker said, that many people believe there is nothing to worry about. But frequent tabloid attacks could turn the monarchy into "a soap opera," he said.

Brooks-Baker is fearful for the popularity of Prince Charles, who he said is becoming more entrenched in "popular pursuits" such as architecture and the environment, which have political overtones.

If Charles continues his crusades when

he becomes king, he could make himself more vulnerable to attack should Labour Party come to power, he said.

In the meantime, the tabloid press continues to make the monarchy look "very silly and sometimes very weak," Brooks-Baker said.

Under the front-page headline, "Anne's girl stomps on pheasant's head," the Sun recently reported in vivid detail how Zara, the 8-year-old daughter of Princess Anne, tried to kill a wounded bird.

"It is unfair to expect these people to be superhuman, but being examined constantly by the press it is becoming more and more clear that they are not infallible, and that is extremely harmful to an institutions like the monarchy," Brooks-Baker said.

Unlike presidents or politicians who can respond to news stories, the royals can do nothing except as their advisers to lodge a protest.

The tabloid press is acting like a bully because they know the royal family can't defend themselves," Brooks-Baker said.

UK tabloid press urged to stop bashing royalty

Giant nail in the coffin of monarchy

Indian Cinema

Tough time for video, tele-films

Boom is over: new media failed to create top calibre

By Firoze Rangoonwalla

FOR a time, there was a boom in video movies and some made especially for television which could also be put later in the video circuit, both in India and overseas. These films, mostly on tape or 16 mm were cheaply made and sold very profitably. They also provided a good alternative to the weekly staple of commercial films, banking on their songs, dances, fights and spectacular scenes. Of course there was no easy replacement for the big stars. The tape films mostly depended on B or C grade stars or new artists who soon fell within the same grades.

Is it not a pity that these potent new media have not created a single star of top calibre? A glorious exception was Smita Patil who was once a TV newsreader. That was long ago. Recently, Hiba Films of Nari Hira (Stardust group) brought forth Aaditya, Neeta Puri, Jeet Upendra and some others. Other video films also brought new talents, like Chanana Ruparel, Jaya Mathur, Ritish Bhardwaj, Amita Nangia etc.

But the boom seems to have ended too soon. Hiba people have reduced their output, their latest being "Shaamat" coming after three months. Lots of other video films, magazines or variety programmes were prepared and even certified by the censors. But they have not found sponsors or distribution channels. Some have just recovered their costs but without the high-profit bracket.

The biggest problem is piracy. As soon as a new video film is out, the libraries don't place honest orders of at least five cassettes each. Instead, if there are say ten libraries in a town, they jointly buy one or two cassettes and then make crude copies. Thereby each library gets five copies to circulate, even if video parlours, library members and borrowers complain of bad tapes, the same happens for cable TV.

The chaps in the business want to make a fast buck and they know that these films don't have a life of more than three weeks. So why spend more or take pains for the helpless customer? Sometimes they are cornered by surprise raids, like those of Hiba Films' anti-piracy cell or I.N.F.A.C.T., the body set up by the film industry and N.F.D.C. But the fellows are soon back in business.

Standing a far better chance is a film specially bought by Indian Doordarshan. But then the TV centre assigns or accepts very few films of chosen people. Mudra Films of Reliance Industries have kept up the tradition. Their latest "Swayam" directed by Mahesh Bhatt with Waheeda

Rehman was aired in the late night slot. After this its video rights were to be sold and it was even blown up from 16 to 35 mm for theatrical release. But then one telecast eats up a huge audience all over India. (Even "Janam" was never released).

The film itself has limited appeal, with Bhatt's crazy ideas and gimmicks spoiling a good theme, of an aging widow wishing to stand on her own feet, despite two pampering daughters and sons-in-law. There is no strong motivation for her firm decision, except the poetic philosophy of her dead husband, who left her a pauper while bestowing ten thousand rupees on one daughter. The old lady rejects her daughters and seeks the help of a Christian priest, who sends her to find jobs in highly odd places and dangerous areas.

The side-track of a woman (Rohini Hattangadi), gone insane due to her son's death by police bullets, becomes utterly banal, as she is sheltered by an anti-social goonda (Paresh Rawal) pretending to be the son. In this portion, the film makers tried to take extra benefit by having the soft-drink Limca as an in-film ad in background. But TV centre, itself greedy for commercials, proved too smart and asked them to cover up the big posters through masking.

So now Waheeda and Paresh appear as if they are shown through tunnels. The special role of Sadashiv Amrapurkar repeating his tough cop's act becomes another cliché.

Finally, if the old woman earns a meagre salary as a "story teacher", while mutely expecting her daughters to help her in any danger or difficulty, it does not make her out as a self-reliant (swayam) woman. In fact, the film's inverse message for today's young generation would be to tell the retired parents that they better stand on their own feet.

Star slips

Amitabh Bachchan: Rajiv should have resigned and ordered re-election. The criticism against me and my brother stopped soon after I resigned from the Parliament.

Ashek Kumar: I'd love to date Rekha. I'd go to her house if she invited me but she never does. I'd like to take Aruna Irani to the beach. We'd sit cosily and I'd draw her nearer, nearer.

Anoop Kumar: Kishore once insisted that if B.R. Chopra wanted him to sing, then he should come to his house, in a dhoti and socks, chewing paan, stand on the table and request him to give playback. (P.S. Chopra thought him to be mad).

Juhi Chawla: Mithun is the most



Madhuri Dixit

proper and honest person in the whole film industry. Shatrughan Sinha: I don't need to throw my weight around. I was thrown on centre-stage when I first stepped into films.

Behind the screen

Roopa Ganguly who played the pivotal Draupadi in TV "Mahabharat" had begun to think that she was the ultimate in glamour and acting and very soon producers will start asking permission from B.R. Chopra to sign her for all the big films. But nothing happened. Soon, the secrets began to come out. Roopa was not only proud but also fat and growing a paunch. She made the mistake of publicly criticising the serial's reordist for spoiling the dramatic scene of her stripping by the evil men whom she curses. So the fact was out that it was not her voice at all, but somebody sounding like

Jaya Prada had dubbed for her. Now, producers are keeping a bigger distance from her and she will have to return home to Bengal films.

After depicting the police in a bad light, the film-values are getting it back from them. A film called "Police Public" is being made. Its outdoor shooting at a hill station was followed by a party. Some youths being trained for the Indian Police Service in that area are gate-crashed into the party. They began to harass the stars and then throw platefuls of food. This led to a real-life fight between the police and public. Next day there was a compromise, with the youths apologising and the film unit realising what to expect from future cops.

The film industry's strange support for Sunil Dutt's election was that they wanted him

individually but not his party, Congress I. And it really happened that way. He won, the Congress lost.

Star interview

Madhuri Dixit

After three hits and two above-average scores, Madhuri Dixit is the single-most popular heroine among a majority of producers. Sri Devi is pricey and exclusive, without any guarantee of solo success. If Sri had not recovered with "Chandni", then Madhuri would have been a few notches higher. We cornered her during the lunch hour of a shooting to quiz her on all this.

Q. Do you think you have a major share in the huge success of "Tezaab", "Ram Lakhan", "Tridev" and a few others like "Iskaat"? A. No artiste in these films can say that with confidence. How can we know which aspect or part appeared more to the audience? Still, I think the innocent helpless charm, projected by N. Chandra in "Tezaab" and my suffering girl act portrayed by Subhash Chandra in "Ram Lakhan" might have held some extra attraction. I can make it out from my fan mail and the phone calls and comments of people I meet.

Q. Do you also believe when they say that you have overtaken Sri Devi?

A. That's all gas. The time spell has been too short to decide this. Success in films is very dicey and it has become worse now with films having short runs. I don't know if my coming movies will flop in a row. Then I will again have to wait for hits.

Q. You have experienced this at the start of your career.

A. That was different. I was raw and childish. The films were weak. Luckily I got a second round when I had developed myself in every way and made people forget "Abodhi", "Awaraz", "Swati" etc. But that can't be the case now after all these big hits. People will not forgive my flops.

Q. Anyway as a decorative piece, popular heroine do keep getting roles?

A. But I don't want such forgettable roles. That puts you in a routine grade. Producers will say "Try Madhuri but anyone else will do."

Q. After Vasanti, Nutan, Tanuja, you are the Marathi girl from Bombay to reach the top in Hindi films. People of the province say that you have ousted girls from Madras and Hyderabad. A. I told them I don't like such a regional-minded attitude. Being a Maharashtrian or South Indian has nothing to do with becoming an all-India artiste in Hindi.

Aden port hopes to regain former glory

ADEN, (Reuters): Once free-wheeling Aden, one of the world's finest natural harbours, is trying to recapture some of its former glory as a major world port.

The sweeping harbour, under a stark volcanic rock jutting into Europe's main shipping lane to Asia, was one of the British Empire's busiest ports before independence in 1967 and its sprawling duty-free trade zone was notorious.

New its bunkering berths lie idle, rows of old duty-free shops are shuttered and the port has all but faded from memory.

After years of neglect, South Yemen is determined to bring it back to life.

"Aden still can compete," said Captain Saeed Yafai of the Yemen Ports Authority. "It needs a big investment and we will have to convince others it is viable."

"We are hoping for British or maybe Arab fund."

Aden's heyday began in 1986 with the open-

ing of the Suez Canal. It was first a coaling station then an oil fuelling port, and it emerged as the distribution hub for East Africa, the Gulf and Red Sea.

But shortly before independence, the June, 1967 Middle East war closed the canal. By the time it reopened in 1974, the world had changed.

Long-haul tankers and container ships no longer needed refuelling and Yemen's neighbours had expanded their ports. When the oil boom came, world-class ports sprang up in the Gulf.

Now after years of neglect, South Yemen's government has recently begun to make new investments.

In May, five new berths with a draft of 11 metres (36 feet) will open, enabling ships to unload directly at the wharf. Loading and unloading procedures will have been totally overhauled, director-general of ports Said Al Dhal told Reuters.

By the end of 1990 the port will have been

modernised in all fields, he said.

But the changes, designed in the early 1980s, may not be enough for even local needs, let alone for transshipment, said Yafai. South Yemen has been quickly stepping up its oil exploration and the port must handle the equipment.

And if a planned union between North and South Yemen goes through, Aden will serve up to three million more people in its historical hinterland now cut off by frontiers.

There are few other ports in the region as well situated as Aden. Small Djibouti is 161 km (100 miles) off the main sea route and Dubai is three days sailing away.

"Aden can still be a transshipment port, although it will never be the same," Yafai said. He hopes to have a study prepared within a year for a new container terminal, with a 15-metre (50-foot) draft to handle fourth generation vessels, the latest and biggest of them all.

Yafai says they would unload in Aden into

feeder ships that would distribute as far away as India.

"For this, very sophisticated facilities would be needed," Yafai said. The plan will include a large new free trade zone. Because of the harbour's size, there is nearly unlimited space.

The project could be finished as soon as 1995, he said. "The rest depends on finance."

The plans will mean a major switch in Yemeni policy. For years the country's radical government has pursued rigid socialism on the Soviet model.

In the last few months the country has opened up, but for the plan to succeed even more changes are needed.

"It will mean the loosening of many strings in the country. Customs formalities will have to be revised drastically," said Yafai.

He said the 410 headings for its wharf tariffs will be reduced to 12. The wide range of tariffs for stevedoring and shifting, stacking and guarding on the wharf will be brought together.

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West Ham and Wimbledon fined for brawl

LONDON, Dec 20. (Reuters): West Ham and Wimbledon were fined by the English Football Association (FA) yesterday for failing to control brawling players.

On the day the FA threatened to kick clubs out of the FA Cup for serious misconduct, the two London sides escaped with modest £20,000 (£32,000) penalties after being found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute.

The charge followed a 17-player brawl during

last month's League Cup round tie at West Ham's Upton Park ground.

The punishments fell well short of the £50,000 (£80,000) fine imposed on Norwich three weeks ago for their part in a 21-player melee in a League match against First Division champions Arsenal, who were fined £20,000.

Wimbledon had accumulated fines totalling more than £25,000 for disciplinary offences in the past five years.

But FA chief executive Graham Kelly said the

latest fine on the club reflected the fact that Wimbledon had "made efforts to improve their record over the last 18 months," and that manager Bobby Gould was "recommending action being taken against a particular player," for his part in the brawl.

In a letter to clubs warning them of the crackdown on player indiscipline in the FA Cup, Kelly said: "We are not inhibited in any way from taking firm action over misconduct

in the cup this season ... accordingly, the Football Association reserves the right to expel clubs from the competition."

Kelly also warned clubs with poor disciplinary records that the FA planned to incorporate the deduction of League points into their regulations from the start of next season.

He said later: "What we are trying to do is push back the tide of what has become regarded as acceptable over many years."

Best accused of trying to avoid paying £43,000 debts

LONDON, Dec 20. (UPI): Bankrupt soccer legend George Best yesterday was accused of putting money into a trust fund for his son to avoid paying up debts of £43,000 (\$68,000).

The accusation was made as the former Manchester United star appeared at the London Bankruptcy Court to explain why he had not cleared his debts.

The registrar accused Best of not making a full and true disclosure of his affairs, and the hearing was adjourned indefinitely.

The one-time Northern Ireland international — whose assets have so far raised \$20,124 pounds (\$32,198) was told by the registrar that all his debts would have to be paid in full before he could be discharged.

Christopher Brougham, counsel for the bankruptcy trustee, said Best was not being frank about his financial affairs.

"This is a straightforward case of a bankrupt putting funds into a trust to put them out of the reach of creditors," he said, referring to a trust set up by Best for his son after a testimonial match in Belfast last year.

Best, of Oakley Street, Chelsea, has submitted accounts showing match receipts totalling £75,708 (\$121,132) — of which £50,000 (\$80,000) went into the trust fund for his son.

But Brougham pointed out it had now been revealed the first named beneficiary in the trust was Best himself.

Best agreed there was not much prospect for creditors from the £80 (\$128) a week he now earns from George Best Management Limited.

He said he had offered £11,000 (\$17,600) from the Belfast testimonial match to creditors but the offer had been turned down. "It is all I have got," he said.

Best also told the court: "The reason I am here today is because I want to pay my debts and I will pay them in full — but my first priority is to look after my son."

Belloumi quits soccer after Cairo incident

ALGIERS, Dec 20. (Reuters): Algerian soccer star Lakhdar Belloumi has announced his retirement from international competition a month after accusations of partially blinding an Egyptian doctor in post-match violence in Cairo.

"It is the player himself who has announced the decision, saying he was no longer capable of meeting the demands of the national team," Algeria's international coach Abdelhamid Kermali told the official Algerian news agency APS yesterday.

Belloumi, 30, Algeria's mid-field maestro in two World Cups, was accused of partially blinding an Egyptian doctor after fighting broke out in the team's Cairo hotel following a 1-0 defeat by Egypt on November 19.

He was arrested and charged with causing permanent damage to Dr Ahmed Abdel-Hadi after the Algerians clashed with Egyptian supporters. Belloumi said the incident was fabricated by the Egyptian media.

Belloumi was alleged to have thrown a glass at supporters which hit the doctor who was sitting in the lobby in his right eye.

The Algerian player was released on bail of 10,000 Egyptian pounds (\$3,800) pending further inquiries.

Meszozy elected Hungarian boss

BUDAPEST, Dec 20. (Reuters): Kalman Meszozy, who received a nine-month suspended prison sentence earlier this year for his part in a match-rigging scandal, was elected Hungarian soccer manager yesterday following the dismissal of Bertalan Bicskei.

Meszozy, who managed the national side between 1980 and 1983, was returned to the job by an 11-7 majority by the Hungarian Soccer Association (HSA) presidency.

The official news agency MTI said Meszozy was elected after association president Mihaly Lazcko had reminded his colleagues that Meszozy was involved in Hungary's largest match-rigging scandal as chief coach of Zalaegerszeg.

Meszozy was fined 50,000 forints (\$950) in January and given a suspended sentence in a detention centre.

Italy face Argentina

Managers hit by problems

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, Dec 20. (Reuters): Managers' nightmares will overshadow dreams of World Cup glory when 1990 hosts Italy play holders Argentina in an international soccer friendly tomorrow.

Optimists in both countries are billing the match as a potential dress rehearsal for next year's final in Rome's Olympic stadium

on July 8.

But for the managers the game in Sardinia's capital Cagliari will be a test of their ability to steer two of the world's great teams to success through a maze of problems posed by League soccer.

Azeglio Vicini, charged with guiding favourites Italy to a

record fourth World Cup triumph, has had a lacklustre season of friendlies including a 1-0 defeat by Brazil and a scoreless draw against England.

He openly blames many of his woes on the frenetic pace of club soccer that is imposing up to three matches a week on top sides in Italy this season.

Injury at club level last weekend has cost Vicini striker Andrea Carnevale of League leaders Napoli and new midfield star Roberto Baggio is highly doubtful after pulling a muscle playing for Fiorentina.

Three stalwarts from European champions AC Milan — Franco Baresi, Paolo Maldini and Roberto Donadoni — have had to fly halfway round the world after Sunday's 1-0 win in Tokyo against South American champions Medellin in the World Club Championship.

"I respect commercial interests and the need for entertainment but there is too much soccer," Vicini said.

"When there are three matches a week all the players do is travel and they can't train. All I can do is hope none of my players gets hurt."

Argentina's Carlos Bilardo faces potentially more daunting problems in moulding another World Cup champion side with a squad scattered across Europe.

Two-thirds of the members — headed by captain Diego

Maradona of Napoli — play in five European Leagues and this match is likely to be Argentina's last at full strength before they gather in Italy next May a month before the 1990 finals.

"Only the youngsters are left in Argentina," Bilardo said.

"For various reasons I have been forced to experiment a lot, not least because so many players are in foreign leagues."

The experiments look set to continue in Cagliari's Sant'Elia stadium as Bilardo searches for a new libero and a goalscorer and mixes new blood with the old guard from the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

Bilardo is expected to put either Gustavo Dezotti or Abel Balbo, both Italian League players, up front and bring in Juan Simon of Boca Juniors in place of veteran libero Jose Luis Brown.

Probable teams:
Italy — Walter Zenga, Giuseppe Bergomi, Paolo Maldini, Franco Baresi, Ciro Ferrara, Nicola Bert, Roberto Donadoni, Fernando de Napoli, Gianluca Vialli, Giuseppe Giannini, Aldo Serena.

Argentina — Nery Pumpido, Juan Simon, Pedro Monzon, Oscar Ruggeri, Julio Olarticoechea, Ricardo Giusti, Sergio Batista, Jose Basualdo (Pedro Troglia), Jorge Burruchaga, Diego Maradona, Gustavo Dezotti (Abel Balbo).

Top athlete

TORONTO, Dec 20. (AP): Wayne Gretzky won his second national prize as many days yesterday when he received the 1989 Lou Marsh award as Canada's outstanding athlete.

It marks the fourth time the hockey superstar has won the award, sponsored by the Toronto Star and named in honour of the newspaper's onetime sports editor and columnist. No other athlete has won the award more than three times.

On Monday, Gretzky got the Lionel Conacher Award as the Canadian press news agency's male Athlete of the Year for a record sixth time.

For the first time in the 51-year history of the Marsh Award, a second ballot was needed to select a winner, with Gretzky edging world figure-skating champion Kurt Browning for the honour.



Reefer takes title

Commonwealth super featherweight champion Mark Reefer (left) looks on as his challenger from Ghana, Sam Kronah, topples backwards to defeat during the 5th round of their title fight in London on Tuesday evening. (Reuters wirephoto)

ITF, ATP reach agreement

Cash set to play in Open

SYDNEY, Dec 20. (Reuters): Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash, out for eight months with a serious Achilles tendon injury, could make his comeback to tournament tennis in the doubles at the Australian Open in Melbourne in January.

Cash, Wimbledon champion in 1987, snapped his tendon in a tournament in Tokyo in April. Cash has postponed his comeback several times. Today the organisers of a six-man tournament in Adelaide from January 10 to 13, featuring Sweden's Stefan Edberg and American John McEnroe, said Cash had pulled out as he was not fully fit.

There is a big chance he'll play doubles at the Open, Barclay said by telephone from Melbourne. "But five sets in singles — that'd be committing suicide."

"We're working at it out there now on the court and letting nature do its work. He's not far off full fitness but it's a waiting game."

"We've got our fingers crossed for the Davis Cup. Pat's certainly going over there and hopefully he'll be 100 per cent by then. The world group first round against France will be played on grass, Cash's favourite surface."

● In Melbourne, the warring factions of international tennis — the International Tennis Federation and the Association of Tennis Professionals — have come to an agreement over umpiring at the Australian



Pat Cash

Open in January. The ATP will provide seven umpires for the Grand Slam tournament in Melbourne which comes under the aegis of the ITF, organisers Tennis Australia said in a statement today.

The organisers had feared the ATP would withhold their umpires, the most experienced in men's tennis.

The ATP will also provide three trainers to look after the men players. Tennis Australia president Geoff Pollard was quoted in the statement as saying he welcomed the new spirit of co-operation between the ATP tour and the Grand Slams.

The Australian Open is the first major tournament of 1990. The ATP takes over the men's tour in January from the Men's Tennis Council.

The ITF and ATP are at loggerheads over which organisation's tournament should end the 1990 season.

The ATP accuses the ITF of spoiling tactics by organising a tournament offering \$6 million prize money for the top players just after the ATP's own year-ending event which has considerably less prize money on offer.

● Tennis star Michael Chang's injured left hip may not be as serious as thought, and he might be able to play in Davis Cup competition in February, his doctor says.

Dr Robert Kerlan examined the tennis player last week and said the problem involves the hip socket. Kerlan will check Chang next Wednesday and try to determine how soon he can play again.

The US team is scheduled to play Mexico in a Davis Cup match Feb 2-4 at La Costa, California. Tom Gorman, captain of the American team, will wait for Chang's examination before deciding if the Californian will be included.

Chang is on crutches and undergoing rehabilitation in water. He hurt himself two weeks ago during a practice session in Florida. Chang, at age 17, became the youngest ever to win a Grand Slam event when he won the French Open this year.

British fans don't worry Fifa

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Dec 20. (AP): Rowdy soccer fans will not be a problem at the World Cup in Italy next year, Fifa president Joao Havelange said yesterday.

"There will be three security checks within 100 metres inside the stadiums," Havelange told foreign journalists.

"Also, everyone will watch the games sitting down. It's the standing crowd that creates problems," he said.

Even the notoriously rowdy British fans don't worry Fifa, the sport's world ruling body. Havelange said. England heads Group F in the 24-team tournament and will play in an isolated spot — the city of Cagliari on the island of Sardinia.

"The British ministry of sports asked us to put England in Cagliari. They are happy with the decision. Nothing will happen," he said.

Havelange said he had toyed with the idea of setting aside \$5 million in prize money for the top

teams in World Cup, but the prospect of violence made him give it up.

"If we did that, it would not be a competition, it would be a battle. And sports are supposed to be fraternal," he said.

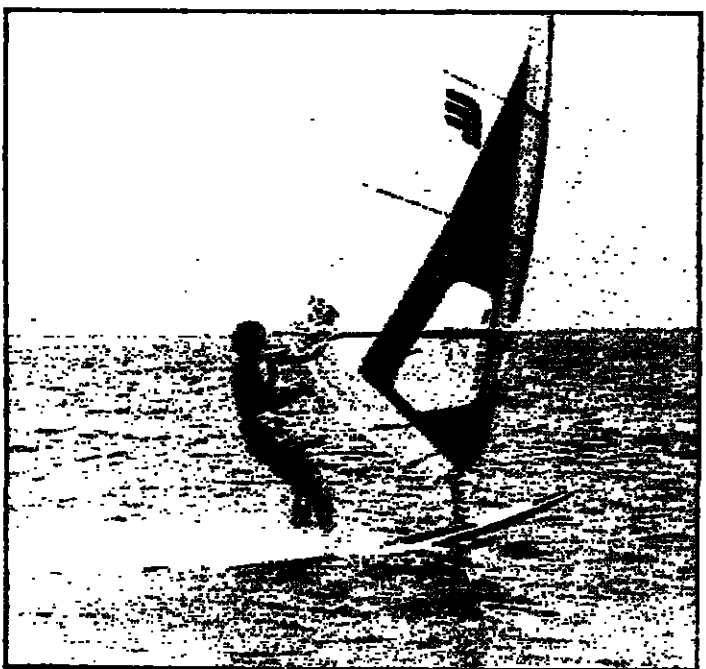
Havelange, who is Brazilian, said it pained him to see Brazil passed over as the site of the 1994 World Cup in favour of the United States. But he said the decision was correct.

"It hurt me. I want it here too, but you have to decide based on facts, not passion. The United States responded absolutely correctly to Fifa's list of demands," he said.

His goal, he said, is to hold the 2002 World Cup in Asia.

"Japan, China and Saudi Arabia have monumental chances to host the Cup. Japan has everything: stadiums, hotels, transportation. China does too," Havelange said.

De Bie wins winter windsurfing series



De Bie: duck giting

THE "Merit" Winter Series of the Messilah Beach Windsurfing Club ended on Friday, with Dutchman Wouly De Bie taking overall 1st place, from German Dietmar Kamphans in 2nd place, and Briton Bob Green 3rd.

The whole series was blessed with very good winds, making all the races very fast and exciting. Particularly so on this last day, with a force 5 wind and a choppy sea, with many of the sailors using medium/small sails and some racing on their shortboards.

For the first race of the day, racing officer Mike Quinn set a standard Olympic triangle course with 2 triangles and two fast slalom sautages which really tested the abilities of the windsurfers.

Stevie Hutchinson (sponsored The Sultan Center) on his Mistral Equipe '89 board and 5.2m² sail lead the way to the finish line, followed by Wouly De Bie (sponsored by

Qabazard Marine) on his Fanatic Ultra Cat and 6.2m² sail. But both of them made a serious error at the end of the course by not sailing through the finish line, which let Bruce Keeping on his borrowed Ultra Cat and Gastra 5.7m² sail, steal the first position whilst Hutchinson and De Bie tried many times to finish correctly, to the satisfaction of the racing officer.

Stuart Large also took advantage of the situation and got 2nd place while the others were still floundering around the finishing buoy.

In the 2nd race of the day, the course was at a figure of 8 slalom over 3 laps, with each lap being a beat and an extremely fast board reach. De Bie took first place, from Hutchinson and Kamphans in a race which tested the board speed and fast gubing abilities of the sailors. Bruce Keeping was unfortunate to break his skeg whilst in a leading position.

By the time the last race came up, the overall winner could not be caught, but there was fierce competition for overall 2nd place between Dietmar Kamphans, Bob Green, and Stuart Large, who, between them, had not won a single race, but had good consistent results throughout the series.

Keeping won the race, this time using a borrowed Fanatic Lite Bee with Stevie Hutchinson 2nd and Andrew Waters 3rd. But the fight for overall 2nd place was intense, with Stuart Large crashing into Bob Green. Large had tried to overtake Green, who was trying to "Luff to Wind" to avoid being overtaken. Both men fell, but Green recovered more quickly and had not lost site of Kam-

phans, who he had to beat to have a chance of 2nd place. Green did manage to overtake Kamphans, but only on the finish line so they took 5th and 6th positions respectively. Large protested Green on the beach, but the Protest Committee did not entertain the protest as no protest was made at the time of the incident.

Dietmar Kamphans, is worthy of particular note, as he has been racing for less than a year and has now "closed the gap" between himself and Kuwait's leading broadsailors, particularly for slalom-style races, which this season has seen most of, due to exceptionally good wind conditions. De Bie and Green started racing together just over two years ago.

The top 10 positions for the "Merit" Winter Series with names of boards in brackets are as follows:

1. Wouly De Bie (Fanatic Cat); 2. Dietmar Kamphans (Fanatic Viper); 3. Bob Green (Mistral Competition); 4. Stevie Hutchinson (Mistral Equipe); 5. Ladislao Pascoe (Mistral Competition); 6. Stuart Large (Mistral Competition); 7. Bruce Keeping (Fanatic Cat); 8. Bob Ward (Fanatic Cat); 9. Andrew Waters (Mistral Competition); 10. Tuki Arneri (Mistral Competition).

There were a total of 18 competitors for the series. The Christmas Fancy Dress Regatta is tomorrow — spectators welcome.

The New Year Series starts on Friday, January 12, 1990 at 10 am. The series will again be sponsored by "Merit". Anyone wanting to join the Messilah Beach Windsurfing Club should contact Bob Green Tel. 4896000 Ext. 3943.



Kamphans: reaching



Green: running



Goa finish on top

Goa soccer team won the tie-breaker tournament held at the Sour Grounds recently. Grandmother team was the runners-up. Peoples' Trust Club president Terence Peter Viegas gave away the prizes to the winners. The tournament was organised by John Coutinho. In a speech at the end of the tournament Peoples' Club legal adviser Franklin D'Costa praised the efforts of the organisers and the teams. Above: Nicholas D'Souza, the Goa captain, lifts the trophy. Below: Joseph Britto, the Grandmother captain, kisses the runners-up cup.



Duran may not be allowed to fight

LONDON, Dec 20, (UPI): Panamanian boxer Roberto Duran could be banned from fighting in Britain if his proposed summer clash with Nigel Benn is finalised by London promoter Barry Hearn.

That warning, just 24 hours after Hearn's big fight announcement, came yesterday from the British Boxing Board of Control's chief medical officer Dr Adrian Whiteson, who confessed concern about Duran's fluctuating weight patterns.

The board cast further doubt on the fight by raising a doubt about Duran's rightful hold on the WBC middleweight title.

The Panamanian, known as 'Hands of stone', may be a ring legend but his over-indulgent lifestyle often results in him ballooning 28 pounds (12.7 kgs) above his fighting mark when not in training.

Dr Whiteson said: "If Duran was to box Benn now I would want assurances that he is not allowing his weight to go above seven pounds (3.2 kgs) above his normal — and that is not taking slimming aids."

"He would have to satisfy us with a number of strict criteria, that's what we would want at the board. If he wants to be world class, don't insult your sports or the public."

Dr Whiteson added: "We have got to protect Duran from himself. It's a shame. If he does come we would give him all sorts of tests. Even a complete psychological assessment."

"There must be a doubt about just how he lost so much weight for his recent fight against Sugar Ray Leonard. The Durans of this world do boxing no good at all by allowing themselves to get so unfit."

Whiteson once banned an ailing Muhammad Ali from fighting British champion John L. Gardner in London on medical grounds.

"We don't want another Ali situation in this world. Boxing is a great sport, but sometimes it is difficult to defend," said Whiteson.

"If we create ammunition, British boxing will end up shooting itself in the foot."

The board also assert that as Duran lost his super-middleweight clash against Leonard when scaling below the 160 pound (72.57 kgs) middle limit, his middleweight champion's status should be seriously reviewed by the World Boxing Council.

Board secretary John Morris said: "Personally, I feel his title should be declared vacant. But that's something the WBC should think about and consider seriously."

"The board don't want to do Benn out of a world chance. We are not leading a revolt, but it's got to be aired and decided upon."

Bulls brush aside Lakers

Knicks outplay Jazz

NEW YORK, Dec 20, (AP): Patrick Ewing, playing without frontcourt partner Charles Oakley, had 41 points and 15 rebounds as the New York Knicks stayed unbeaten at home with a 115-107 victory over the Utah Jazz.

The Knicks, at 10-0 the only team in the NBA without a loss at home, had Oakley, their leading rebounder, sitting out a one-game suspension in last night's contest for fighting with Seattle's Xavier McDaniel on Saturday.

Gerald Wilkins added 25 points for New York, while Karl Malone had 29 points and Thurl Bailey 20 for Utah.

Bulls 93, Lakers 83
Michael Jordan scored 37 points, leading the Bulls to their fifth straight victory, 93-83 over the Los Angeles Lakers. The defeat snapped the Lakers' four-game winning streak, while the Bulls won their ninth in a row in the Chicago stadium, where they are 10-1 this season. Overall, the Bulls have won 10 of their last 12 games.

Bullets 112, Timberwolves 99
Jeff Malone scored 12 points in the third quarter and Mel Turpin added six in the first 3:14 of the fourth as Washington won its fourth straight game, handing Minnesota its sixth straight loss, 112-99.

Malone finished with 20 points, while Turpin had 17 points and 12 rebounds, both season highs for the Bulls.

Hawks 115, Kings 112
Dominique Wilkins scored 11



Ewing scored 41 points

of his 30 points in the final 4:41, rallying Atlanta over Sacramento, 115-112.

Sacramento lost its fifth straight game. Earlier in the day, the Kings fired vice-president Bill Russell and announced coach Jerry Reynolds would become the team's player personnel director when a new coach is hired.

Pistons 94, Superonics 77
Mark Aguirre scored 12 of his 21 points in the first quarter as Detroit snapped a three-game losing streak as the Pistons beat Seattle 94-77. Bill Laimbeer had 20 points and 11 rebounds and John Salley added 16 points for Detroit.

sowed up the victory from the foul line.

Celtics 95, Bucks 86
Larry Bird scored 21 points and Boston held Milwaukee to 36 points in the second half in a 95-86 victory.

The win ended a nine-game regular-season losing streak in Milwaukee for the Celtics.

Trail Blazers 119, Rockets 100
Terry Porter scored 19 points, including four 3-pointers in the first half, leading Portland over Houston 119-100.

Porter had 14 points in the first half and Clyde Drexler scored 10 of his 18 points in the third period, when the Blazers built an 89-71 lead.

Akeem Olajuwon led Houston with 24 points and Derrick Chievous added 16.

Clippers 128, Pacers 102
Ron Harper scored 17 of his 39 points during a third-quarter duel with Chuck Person as the Los Angeles Clippers beat Indiana 128-102.

The triumph extended the Clippers' home winning streak to five games, matching their longest string of homecourt success since their move from San Diego in 1984.

Hornets 102, Mavericks 97
Dell Curry's jumper with 37 seconds left snapped a 95-95 tie and Charlotte went on to break a 10-game losing streak by defeating Dallas, 102-97.

After Curry gave Charlotte the lead, Derek Harper had a chance to tie it from the free-throw line with 27 seconds left. But he missed both shots and the Hornets

Reynolds chases another record

NEW YORK, Dec 20, (AP): Twenty-year-old records are Butch Reynolds' thing.

In 1988, Reynolds smashed the world record in the men's 400 metres, clocking an astounding 43.29 seconds at Zurich, Switzerland to erase the mark of 43.86, set by Lee Evans at the 1968 Olympics.

At the Seoul Olympics, Reynolds ran the anchor leg on the United States 1,600-metre relay team that equalled the 20-year-old world record of 2:56.16 set by the US team at the 1968 Mexico City games.

Next year, Reynolds will be chasing another 20-year-old mark, the 600-yard (549-metre) indoor record of 1:07.6, set by Martin McGrady in the 1970 AAU championships at Madison Square Garden.

Reynolds also plans to make his most serious pursuit of the 600 mark in Madison Square Garden. But it will be the new garden, about two miles (3 kilometres) away from where McGrady ran his record race. And it will be in a different meet, the Millrose Games, on Feb. 2.

If Reynolds is successful — and he is extremely confident — meet director Howard Schmertz has promised to discontinue the 600 in the Millrose Games. That suits Reynolds.

"That's great," the 25-year-old Reynolds said yesterday. "I'll take the record to the grave with me."



Reynolds likes to break 20-year records

Reynolds has bettered McGrady's record, clocking 1:06.87 in 1987 at Johnson City, Tennessee, but the mark was disallowed because it was accomplished on an oversized track — with a circumference greater than 220 yards (200 metres).

Still, it was a sensational effort, not only because of the time, but because Reynolds does not truly have the physical makeup for an indoor runner. At 6-foot-3 (1.91 metres), the long-legged Reynolds is considered too tall to properly negotiate the tight turns on the highly banked, boarded tracks.

Reynolds still thinks he can crack McGrady's mark, the oldest indoor record in track and field. The 1990 running of the Mel Sheppard 600, named after the 1980 Olympic champion in the men's 800 and 1,500 metres, will be the 76th time it has been

held in the meet. "I know I'm not built to be a great board runner," he said. "The law of gravity is against me. But my training regimen makes me confident. There's no one out there who attacks it (a race) like I do. I really attack it."

To break the record, Reynolds said he'll have to seize the lead from the outset. Laying back could be costly, just as it was in the 1987 World Outdoor Championships, where he finished third in the 400, and in the 1988 Olympics, where he was second.

If Reynolds breaks the 600 mark in the Millrose Games, it would put him in select company. The race has been won by nine Olympic champions.

And it would give him a stunning start toward his long-range goal.

"I want to be the man for the '90s in track and field," he said.

Ruddock to meet Dokes next year

NEW YORK, Dec 20, (AP): Michael Dokes and Razor Ruddock, who both wanted to challenge champion Mike Tyson, will fight each other instead.

The two boxers have signed contracts for a scheduled 12-round bout in late March or early April at a site to be selected, promoter Murad Muhammad said yesterday.

After negotiations for a Dokes-Tyson fight fell through, Ruddock had signed to fight the champion on Nov 18, at Edmonton, Alberta. The fight first postponed when Tyson got a chest ailment, then it was cancelled, and Tyson now is set to defend against Buster Douglas Feb 12 at Tokyo.

"I don't think the best heavy weight on the planet earth got a cold — a cold — and cancelled the fight," Muhammad jeered.

"I'll tell Mike Tyson to his face right now. I don't respect him for that," said Ruddock, a native of Jamaica, who lives in Toronto. "One reason I wanted to fight Mike Tyson is because the whole world says he's unbeatable."

Muhammad said there was possibility he would take legal action against Tyson and promoters Don King.

When the negotiations for a fight between Tyson and Dokes broke off, King said it was because of purse demands by Dokes, a former World Boxing Association champion.

But Marty Cohen, Dokes' 92-year-old advisor, said yesterday it was King's demands for three options on Dokes' future fights that stopped negotiations.

Dokes, who did not attend the news conference because he is ill with the flu, will have a tuneup fight Feb 5 against an opponent to be named, at the Forum in Inglewood, California.

Dokes, 31, had to get off the floor to stop Lionel Washington in the eighth round of a fight for he was a flabby 257 pounds (116 kilograms) Nov 13 at the Forum.



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Riot forces suspension of Pakistan-India match

KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec. 20. (Reuters): The one-day cricket international between Pakistan and India was suspended after 14 overs today after a demonstration in the stadium about a planned cultural visit turned into a riot.

Witnesses said Indian fielders were pelted with stones and oranges and police retaliated with tear gas. At one stage several shots rang out but there was no report of casualties.

Indian player Mohammed Azharuddin was

slightly hurt when struck on the elbow by a stone — prompting the visiting team to walk off the field as missiles rained down from the terraces.

Police used steel-tipped batons to control a crowd outside the stadium after a student was caught with a revolver trying to climb the wall around the ground.

The second game in the three-match one-day series, reduced from the original four after the first was abandoned to a friendly, was suspended

with Pakistan on 27 for three after 14 of their allotted 40 overs.

Captain Imran Khan was not out nine with Shoaib Mohammad on 13.

The umpires tried to restart the game after about 35 minutes but the Indian team again left the ground when Ravi Shastri complained the crowd was hurling stones. Organisers brought on Pakistan's Javed Miandad to appeal for calm, but he failed to quieten the protesters.

The trouble began after spectators carrying flags of the opposition Mohajir National Movement grouped near a high steel fence outside the general enclosure and shouted slogans against a planned cultural visit to Pakistan by Indian film stars.

Right-wing groups in Pakistan, which believe cultural shows involving women desecrate Islam, are demanding the visit be cancelled.

Nahil and Lollo take top spot

NAHIL Akel and Lollo Murthwaite were the envy of the Kuwait bridge circles this week as they made their mark in every tournament they contested.

They started the week by winning the Regency Ladies Bridge Club's Bi-annual Tournament on Dec 14. They took top place in another tournament on Sunday and later in the day took second place in the Messilah Beach Club's Bi-annual Tournament.



Nahil (right) and Lollo

Not content with these two high placings, Nahil and Lollo finished the week by placing first in the weekly game of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club yesterday.

Bianca Moussali and Rita Giacola were also in good form this week. They won the Messilah event and took fifth place in the Regency Bi-annual Tournament.

Jamila Akel and Nuha Khalaf were not far behind in their performances. They took second place in the Regency event and were third at Messilah.

Results
Results of the Regency Ladies Bridge Club game held on Wednesday, Dec 14 at the Regency Palace:
1. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
2. Jamila Akel & Nuha Khalaf
3. Nida Khalaf & Subendran Oskay
4. Margaret Maynard & Suzanne Catermole
5. Rita Giacola & Bianca Moussali

Results of the Messilah Bi-annual Tournament held on Sunday, Dec 18:
1. Bianca Moussali & Rita Giacola
2. Nahil Akel & Lollo Murthwaite
3. Jamila Akel & Nuha Khalaf
4. Nida Khalaf & Subendran Oskay
5. Rima Ayyad & Ghofran Mikail

Cash payment
LONDON, Dec. 20. (UPI): The Southern Counties Athletic Association is to stop paying cash to athletes at its Track and Field Grand Prix meeting at Crystal Palace. From next season they will be paid by check and money orders as a guard against money being stolen.

Gulf drivers praise Dubai rally school

DUBAI: The Mitsubishi-Marlboro Rally School run by Pentti Airikkala is under way in Dubai, with representative drivers from around the Gulf in attendance. The response from the visiting crews is a warm welcome to one of Europe's most respected rally campaigns with the added benefit of learning from the Flying Finn's considerable experience.

Those drivers attending the school are Kuwait's Eid Falah; Abbas Al Mosawi and Nasser Al Atiyya from Qatar; Mohamed Al Mali and Mamdouh Khayat from Saudi Arabia; Oman based Lebanese driver Tony Georgiou; and Mohamed Omar, Michel Saleh and the talented Mohamed Mattar from Dubai.

The three-day school is being run by Rallart Middle East, the Dubai based rally wing of Mitsubishi Motors Corporation, and is the first even of its type in Middle East Rallying. "This is an excellent opportunity for all of us," said Qatari Marlboro Desert Challenge champion Abbas Al Mosawi. "It is a good opportunity to correct our mistakes from such a highly qualified professional as Pentti Airikkala."

The rally school takes part in two phases on a daily basis, with an initial session in a classroom type setting, followed with the drivers being put through their experience and we are learning much about steering, and taking bends and corners," said Kuwait's Eid Falah.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Bangladesh games

THE Bangladesh Association has announced the winners of the Indoor Games '89 as follows. Chess: 1. Kudrat-e-Ghani, 2. Yunus Ali, 3. Forkan Ahmed. Table tennis: Masaddek Shamsur Ali, 2. Shankar Chakravorty, 3. Ashrafur Rahman Rubel. Bridge: 1. Munir & M.S. Huda, 2. M.A. Rahim & Saleque-zaman, 3. Shafiqur Rahman & Kazi Alamgir. Carom: 1. Kudrat-e-Ghani, 2. M.A. Rahim, 3. Abdul Ahad Runu. The winners have been asked to collect their prizes at the Victory Day function to be held in the Shariq Co-operative Auditorium tomorrow at 6.00 pm.

Hockey matches

THE following hockey matches will be played tomorrow at the Ahmad Ali Hiral in the semifinals of the Sharma Trophy at 2 pm and Flying Arrows take on Starworld at 3.00 pm in a Kuwait Independent Trophy match.

British soccer

LONDON, Dec. 20. (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches yesterday:
English F.A. Cup second round, second replay: Reading 0 Welling 0, (winners home to Scunthorpe in third round). English Division Four: Grimsby 2 Southend 0 (postponed from Dec 16). Friendly: Glasgow Rangers 1 Arsenal 2.

Asia Cup

NEW DELHI, Dec. 20. (Reuters): Results in the third Asia Cup men's hockey tournament which began today. Pakistan beat Japan 2-0 (half-time 2-0). Scores: Anjum Saeed (4th minute) Qamar Ibrahim (15th), India beat China 1-0 (0-0). Scores: Sujit Kumar (19th minute).

Pro tennis

CLEVELAND, Dec. 20. (Reuters): Jennifer Capriati, 13, of Tampa, Florida, winner of the 1989 junior French and junior US Opens, has joined the pro tennis ranks.

Winters dies

TULSA, Oklahoma, Dec. 20. (AP): John M. Winters Jr., a former US golf association president has died. He was 86. Winters died Sunday night after being hospitalized with a pancreatic ailment.

Rugby match

LONDON, Dec. 20. (Reuters): The north of England beat the touring Soviet Union rugby union team 30-14 (half-time 10-6) at Aspatira yesterday.

NHL games

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (Reuters): Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:
New York 5 New Jersey 4
Hartford 8 Pittsburgh 4
Washington 2 Philadelphia 1
Edmonton 5 Minnesota 0
Los Angeles 0 Winnipeg 1
Calgary 2 Vancouver 1

Elkerton wins

HONOLULU, Dec. 20. (AP): Australia's Gary Elkerton braved 10- to 15-foot (3- to 4.5 metre) waves on Oahu Island's North Shore yesterday to win the \$80,000 Master Pipeline Masters surfing competition.

Australia win Test

Sri Lanka all out for 348

HOBART, Australia, Dec. 20. (Reuters): Australia gained their sixth victory in 11 cricket Tests in 1989 when they beat Sri Lanka by 173 runs with just 30 minutes of the second Test remaining today.

Australia, who had set Sri Lanka 522 to win after declaring their second innings at 513 for five yesterday, appeared to be coasting home when they took three wickets before lunch to reduce the touring side to 208 for six.

But Ravi Ratnayake and Asoka de Silva rode their luck and profited from poor fielding to take Sri Lanka to within 70 minutes of their second draw of the two-match series.

The resistance was broken when a tiring Ratnayake was superbly caught by wicketkeeper Ian Healy, one-handed down the leg side, for 75 after flicking once too often at paceman Greg Campbell. Ratnayake batted for 221 minutes, hit 13 boundaries and added 124 with De Silva.

Graeme Labrooy put on five runs with De Silva, who failed to score for 30 minutes after reaching 50, before he was bowled by Merv Hughes.

With the total still 337 and 44 minutes left, De Silva's brave 226-minute innings ended as Campbell, finding swing with the new ball, bowled the Sri Lankan round his legs for exactly 50, his maiden half-century in first-class



Aravinda de Silva

cricket.

Temper flared as the last Sri Lankan pair repeatedly played and missed at the desperate Australian pace bowlers. Rumesh Ratnayake collided with Campbell when finishing a run and had a heated discussion with Healy as the wicketkeeper remonstrated.

From the next ball, Ratnayake appeared to try to run down

Campbell at full speed while attempting another run and was counselled by the umpire to calm down.

Seconds later Ratnayake was lbw to Hughes for five to end a match in which Sri Lanka showed, despite their shortage of Test cricket in the last two years, they could battle it out with the best over five days.

Hughes finished with five for 88 and Campbell, who shook hands with Ratnayake as he left the field, three for 102.

Australia, who thrashed England 4-0 in the Ashes series earlier this year, have drawn their other five Tests in 1989, their best unbeaten run for 15 years.

After resuming this morning at 166 for three, the touring side's hopes of saving the game seemed to disappear when Aravinda de Silva and captain Arjuna Ranatunga were dismissed in quick succession before lunch.

Hughes, who has taken over from Terry Alderman as his side's most effective strike bowler in this series, made the breakthrough. Enraged by having a close lbw decision turned down, Hughes dug the next delivery in and Ranatunga (38) could only fend the ball to short leg where Dean Jones took a sharp catch.

Without addition to the total, Sri Lanka's most accomplished batsman, De Silva, was dismissed for 72. He had attacked Peter

Scoreboard

AUSTRALIA first innings.....224
SRI LANKA first innings.....216
AUSTRALIA second innings 513 for five declared
SRI LANKA second innings (overnight 186 for three)
R. Mahanama lbw b Campbell.....5
D. Ranatunga c Healy b Hughes.....45
A. Gurusinghe c sub b Hughes.....20
Aravinda de Silva c Campbell.....72
R. Ratnayake c Jones b Hughes.....38
H. Tillekeratne c Waugh b Sleep.....6
R. Ratnayake c Healy b Campbell.....75
Asoka de Silva b Campbell.....50
G. Labrooy b Hughes.....5
C. Ranatunga not out.....2
R. Ratnayake lbw b Hughes.....5
Extras (b-9 lb-12 nb-4).....25
Total.....348
Fall of wickets: 1-62 53-94 4-187 5-187 6-208 7-332 8-337 9-337
Bowling: Alderman 30-12-48-0 (3nb), Campbell 33-8-102-3 (1nb), Sleep 36-16-73-2, Hughes 31-4-88-5, Moody 2-0-9-0, Jones 4-2-5-0, Border 5-4-2-0

Drumbeat wins again

SYDNEY, Dec. 20. (Reuters): Alan Bond's Drumbeat scored its third handicap and line honours in four Southern Cross Cup races today, revelling in strong winds which damaged two of its major rivals.

The Western Australian super maxi completed the 75 nautical mile race off Sydney Heads in seven hours 48 minutes 47 seconds, about 100 minutes ahead of the rest of the field. It lies third overall behind leader Britain's Heaven Can Wait and Cyclone of New South Wales.

Bond, attending business meetings in Perth, was not on board. Helmsman Peter Gilmour said the 25-metre yacht must now be considered one of the favourites for the Sydney to Hobart race, the sixth and final race in the Cup starting December 26.

"We've pushed the boat hard

all day and tried to make amends for finishing 18th on Sunday," said Gilmour. "It's certainly unusual in a fleet of this nature for a maxi boat to be winning so we are preparing ourselves for a good run to Hobart."

Britain's Heaven Can Wait finished seventh on handicap in the overnight race after suffering equipment problems in winds gusting over 20 knots. Holes were torn in the cockpit floor and the deck after fittings were ripped out.

Australia's Southern Cross, second after the third race, was forced to retire after 30 minutes with a bent mast.

Mast makers worked all night to straighten out the mast while another team began building a new mast. It is unlikely a repaired mast would survive the 630 nautical mile sea trip to Hobart.

Ganga to head African group

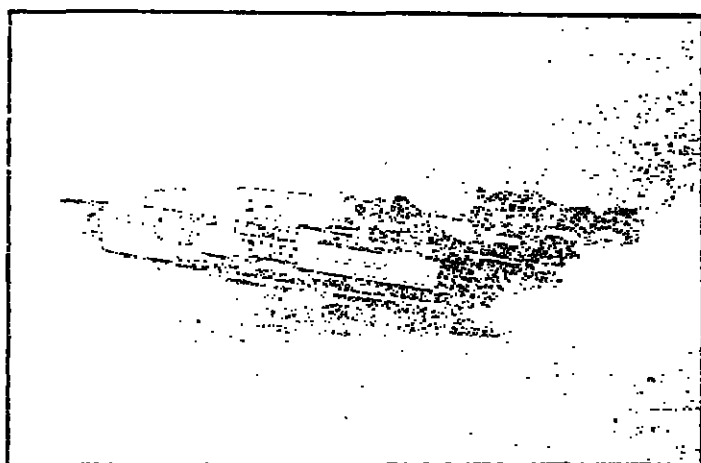
RABAT, Dec. 20. (Reuters): Congolese Sports Minister Jean-Claude Ganga was elected president of the African National Olympic Committees Association yesterday.

Ganga, who received votes from 33 of 37 delegations at the association's third annual meeting, replaces Hamid Rashdi Alami of Morocco.

The association also elected three vice-presidents: Abdel Karim Derwish of Egypt, Francis Myangweso of Uganda and Mustapha Kamel of Mauritania.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, told a news conference that the IOC would organise a special training camp for African athletes to prepare for the 1992 Barcelona Summer Games.

Jarallah prepares for Dubai race



Mishal Al Jarallah practices for the race. Right: Jarallah (extreme left) with Fernando (3rd left) and other members of his team

KOURUS powerboat racer Mishal Al Jarallah and his throttleman Ananda Fernando will be racing in the Dubai offshore Powerboat Race on December 29, competing against an international field of racers from Kuwait, UAE, USA, Australia and elsewhere.

Kourus, a man's fragrance from Yves Saint Laurent, has sponsored Jarallah for the whole of the 1989 racing season, which will include races in Kuwait and Dubai, and possibly Qatar. Dubai is the focus of powerboat activity in the Gulf, and a good result here is very important to the team.

In the opening race of the season, in Dubai on October 6, Jarallah came fifth, despite a significant reduction in engine power in the centre engine. This made Kourus the first non-ferrite boat home, and it was the second time in a row that Jarallah was the first Kuwaiti to finish in Dubai, as he had also taken fourth place in the March race.

The last outing for the distinctive blue,

white and silver boat, with its impressive F-16 fighter canopies, was in Jordan where despite being tipped for a good result, the Kourus boat hit problems in the rough water at the southern turning point of the race.

"Just before the turning point we had a sudden surge of rpm in the left engine, but no increase in the thrust. We thought perhaps we'd lost a propeller and hobbled back to the marina with the intention of changing it and rejoining the race, but on checking found that the complete left lower unit was cracked and the propeller was lost," explains Jarallah.

"That's the point about racing," adds Kourus throttleman Fernando. "It is just not possible to anticipate everything that may happen in a race. So many different factors go into that final result."

After a demoralising race in Jordan, the Kourus team are now looking forward to better things in Dubai, but face overpowering opposition from some of the boats which are

expected to complete this time.

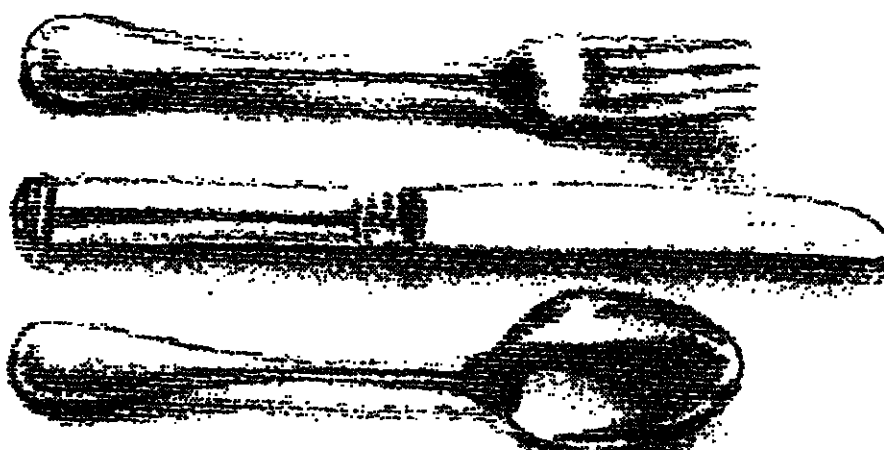
In particular Victory team can be expected to do well. This Dubai-based group has won every powerboat event this season, and have a powerful inboard boat with which they hope to lead home Group A. However, more boats of that calibre are expected to compete in the coming race and the Victory team may not have everything their own way.

"I wouldn't like to make any predictions," said the Kourus driver. "I hope that I'll get a good result, and I will be aiming to finish as high as possible; no-one can say more than that, and we'll just have to wait and see."

The race will consist of four laps of a triangular type course, representing a total distance of around 84 Nautical Miles, and will be organised by Dubai Marine Club. Conditions could well be rough which will suit the longer boats, like Jarallah's, a 32ft Cougar catamaran with a trio of Mercury 2.4 e.f.i. engines.

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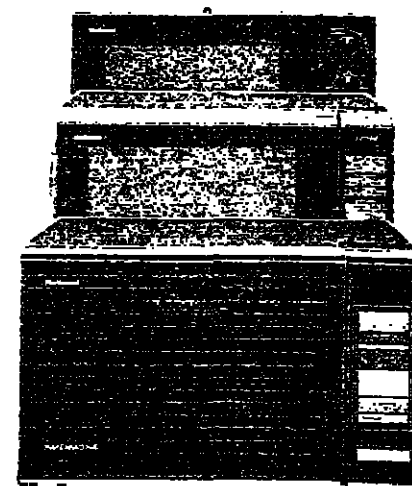


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